Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 41 | THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www. saipan tribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of Japanese lawmakers' plan to relocate U.S. troops from Futenma, Japan to the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

With Flying Colors

A registered nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center passed a specialty certification in California, making him the first certified nephrology nurse employed at the hospital.

Local...Page 6

Going Nuclear

Prodding Republicans, President Barack Obama on Tuesday championed nuclear energy expansion as the latest way that feuding parties can move beyond the "broken politics" of Washington that have imperiled his agenda and soured voters.

Nation...Page 14

Lady Gaga Sweep

Flamboyant chanteuse Lady Gaga swept the U.K.'s Brit Awards Tuesday winning three categories and offering an emotional tribute to Alexander McQueen, the British fashion designer who died last week.

Life & Style...Page 21

MVA's Tenorio named to US Travel and Tourism Advisory Board. PAGE 2

PSS intensifies campaign vs bullying. **PAGE 3**

Chamber: Military buildup to incur costs, not real benefits to CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has said that while the U.S. military has identified a number of "costs" to the CNMI as a result of the military buildup in Guam, it has not identified "any real benefits" to the community.

Among other things, the CNMI will lose U.S. workers to Guam, will lose tourists because of the regional association with the U.S. military, will lose access to recreational and culturally significant areas, and stands to bear increased costs associated with the massive, multi-year military buildup, said

See CHAMBER on Page 4

Brennan

Govt overspends $13M in 1st quarter

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Sen. Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan), and Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) during the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee's meeting with finance and budget officials on government revenues yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill.

As Senate panel weighs House austerity bill expected to cut deficit by $5 millions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance and budget officials told members of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee yesterday that the government's spending exceeded its revenue by over $13 million in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2010, higher than the Fitial administration's projection in late December 2009 of $11.5 million.

See GOVT on Page 4

Man in biggest 'ice' haul gets 135 months in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday imposed a sentence of 11 years and three months to one of four persons busted in the biggest haul of methamphetamine or "ice" in the CNMI.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson sentenced Sheng Lian to 135 months in prison, for one count of conspiracy to distribute "ice," and one count of possession of a controlled substance.

Munson ordered the 26-year-old Lian to serve the 135

See MAN on Page 4

ASH WEDNESDAY

A little girl and her mom were among the hundreds of Catholic faithful who went to Kristo Rai Parish Church to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten season.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E Life in Motion

Diamonds & Pearls

GIVE THE PERFECT GIFT THIS VALENTINE'S

BlackBerry Pearl™ Smartphone $99.00*

Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS *Terms and conditions apply

Local

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), right, congratulates Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry John P. Tenorio, center, for his appointment to the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board while MVA board vice chair Marian Aldan-Pierce looks on during a news briefing at Sablan's office in Susupe yesterday morning. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

MVA's Tenorio named to US Travel and Tourism Advisory Board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke appointed Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry John P. Tenorio to the 29-member U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, an opportunity that is also seen to help boost the CNMI's own tourism industry.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) nominated Tenorio for the position in September 2009.

Tenorio will be serving on the board from 2010 to 2011, along with 28 other national business and tourism personalities, including Delta Airlines chief executive officer Richard Anderson and Global Hyatt Corp. executive vice president and chief operating officer Chuck Floyd.

"This definitely puts the CNMI on the world map. I'm sure people are now Googling where the CNMI is," MVA board vice chair Marian Aldan-Pierce told reporters yesterday morning in a news briefing at Sablan's office in Susupe.

Tenorio thanked Sablan for nominating him to the post, and made note of the board's three main priority issues which are important to the CNMI's own tourism industry, including airport congestion and infrastructure, travel facilitation, and economic sustainability.

Sablan, for his part, thanked Locke for agreeing to his recommendation "and for giving the Northern Mariana Islands a voice on the Board."

"This is an honor for Mr. Tenorio and will give our tourism industry valuable visibility and clout in shaping national tourism policies," Sablan said in a statement.

Aldan-Pierce, who is also president of DFS Saipan, said Tenorio's presence on the national tourism advisory board will help make national agencies and officials know more about the CNMI, its tourism challenges and positive features.

"The challenges we have here, he will be able to bring on the table," she added.

The 29-member board represents a cross-section of the U.S. travel and tourism industry with appointees from transportation and financial services, hotel and restaurant businesses, and from many different geographic areas of the country.

The advisory board's chief responsibility is to provide counsel to the U.S. Commerce secretary on government policies and programs that affect the U.S. travel and tourism industry.

The board also provides a forum for discussing and proposing solutions to industry-related concerns. More information about the board is available at http://tinet.ita.doc.gov/TTAB/TTAB_Home.html.

"The health and stability of the travel and tourism industry touches all regions and impacts employment and economic strength across the country. I look forward to working with the Travel and Tourism Board to develop policies that can help put Americans back to work in this critical sector," Locke said in a statement as he made the announcements of the appointments in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday.

The secretaries of the Departments of State, Homeland Security and Transportation serve on the board as ex officio, non-voting members.

"We will now have our Visitors Authority's managing director in close contact with some of the most important companies in the business. Mr. Tenorio will be helping Secretary Locke to decide where the U.S. Commerce Department deploys its resources to support tourism development. And we certainly hope that more of those resources will be directed to our part of the United States," said Sablan.

Tourism is now the only major industry in the CNMI, following the complete demise of the once almighty garment industry in 2009.

The U.S. Department of Commerce will schedule the board's inaugural meeting in the coming weeks.

The 29 members of the board include Rossi Ralenkotter, president and chief executive officer of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority; Dawn Drew, founder and CEO of The M.O.S.T.E. Inc.; Holly Agra, president of Chicago's First Lady Cruises; Richard Anderson, CEO of Delta Air Lines Inc.; José Andrés, president and co-founder of ThinkFoodGroup; Sheila Armstrong, executive director of the U.S. Cultural and Heritage Tourism Marketing Council; Helane Becker, managing director of Jesup & Lamont; Nick Calderazzo, vice president sales and marketing of RMP Travel; Maryann Ferenc, founder, president and CEO of Mise en Place Inc.; and Chuck Floyd, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Global Hyatt Corp.

Also on the board are Sam Gilliland, chairman and CEO of Sabre Holdings; Adam Goldstein, president and CEO of Royal Caribbean International; Dr. David Hayes, director of Mayo Clinic's international office; Jeremy Jacobs Sr., chairman and CEO of Delaware North Companies Inc.; Hubert Joly, president and CEO of Carlson Companies; John Klein, CEO of Chelsea Property Group Inc.; David Kong, president and CEO of Best-Western International; Philip Levine, president and CEO of Baron Corp.; Gina Marie Lindsey, executive director of Los Angeles World Airports; and J. Stephen Perry, president and CEO of New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Completing the board's membership are Adam Sacks, managing director of Tourism Economics; Joseph W. Saunders, chairman and CEO of Visa Inc.; Douglas Shifflet, chairman and CEO of D.K. Shifflet & Associates; Ronald Solimon, president and CEO of Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Inc. and Indian Pueblos Marketing Inc.; John Sprouls, CEO of Universal Orlando Resort and executive vice president of Universal Parks and Resorts; Danna Stroud, Tourism and Recreation director of Town of Mammoth Lakes, CA; Greg Stubblefield, executive vice president and chief strategy officer of Enterprise Holdings; Perry John P. Tenorio, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority; and George Zimmerman, vice president of Travel Michigan at the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

BlackBerry® smartphone
BLOWOUT
BlackBerry® 8707 G smartphone
$49.00*
BlackBerry® Pearl™ Flip 8220 smartphone
$79.00*
BlackBerry® Curve™ 8520 smartphone
$149.00*
Includes BlackBerry® Automotive Charger and BlackBerry® HS 500 wireless Bluetooth Headset
BlackBerry® Curve™ 8900 smartphone
$229.00*
BlackBerry® Storm™ 9500 smartphone
$259.00*
BlackBerry® Bold™ 9000 smartphone
$339.00*
BlackBerry® Bold™ 9000 smartphone (White)
$369.00*
BlackBerry
BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world.
*New 24 month Agreement required and BlackBerry ® data required.Offer valid Febuary 12th-Febuary 27th, 2010 or while supplies last. Conditions apply.
NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

PSS intensifies campaign vs bullying

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Programs and events are being prepared in public schools beginning this week to heighten the Public Schools System's campaign against bullying.

At San Vicente Elementary School, a two-day activity that will highlight topic presentations from high school students is slated for next week.

SVES principal Joaquina DLG. Salas admitted that this is the first time that student-presenters from guest school Marianas High School will join schoolchildren in advocating the fight against bullying.

Every year, SVES incorporates mini-sessions on the topic as its way of expressing opposition to the behavior.

At Hopwood Junior High School, its youth advisory panel will hold an anti-bullying week campaign from Feb. 22 to 26.

Principal Jonas Barcinas said this year's theme is "See it, stop it, beat it!" Campaign activities will include skit and dances focusing on the campaign theme.

Barcinas said Hopwood will also be working closely with William S. Reyes Elementary School and San Antonio Elementary School in the fight and prevention of harassment and bullying on campus.

Saipan Tribune learned that posters advocating for the same cause will also be posted in various school campuses to create awareness of problems facing students.

At Hopwood, the school also plans to do presentations about the topic and will invite guests from agencies and departments.

The Board of Education wants to revisit the existing policy on anti-bullying on schools after noting the prevailing negative impact to students, particularly elementary kids.

The Youth Advisory Panel created by the Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita A. Sablan also expressed concern on the prevalence of bullying on campuses.

Denise Tanya King, education board member from Rota, disclosed yesterday that the board revisited the policy on bullying to ensure all education stakeholders are fully aware of the regulation.

School principals, King added, must be reminded on their responsibility to uphold the regulation, which describes bullying as an unacceptable behavior that should not be tolerated at any given time.

PSS, through its at-risk youth survey, earlier admitted the existence of bullying on campuses.

"The issue is a prevailing concern and therefore we need to make sure that principals are properly upholding the policy," she said, adding that students who are caught bullying other students will face penalties mandated by the policy.

Bullying is another form of harassment, according to King.

The former counselor said schools should be a safe haven for children, adding that it is imperative to remind school administrators about their responsibility to safeguard the wellness of students.

Studies and research done by various groups revealed that the stakes are high if student bullying is not stopped.

It was found that, without intervention, bullying behavior persists over time.

Many believe that a child who is a bully in kindergarten is often a bully in elementary school, high school, and beyond and such behaviors are not without consequence.

Experts have shown that career bullies are not only slightly more likely than their peers to serve prison time as adults, they also tend to suffer from depression.

School teachers and community members interviewed yesterday believe that kids who are routinely victimized may exhibit higher levels of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts than do non-victims.

Woman in serious condition after being struck by tour bus

■ 49-year-old said to have jumped from car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 49-year-old woman suffered serious injuries when she reportedly jumped from a moving car and was struck by a tour bus along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau Friday midnight.

Maria Palacios suffered severe injuries to the head, body, and lower extremities. She was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center and was subsequently flown to a hospital in the Philippines, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS spokesman Eric F. David said Palacios, who was believed intoxicated, threw herself out from the car because of an argument with her son, who was the operator of the vehicle.

David said police officers responded to call about an injured person incident in front of the Big Garden Restaurant along 2W Highway (Middle Road) on Friday at 12:48am.

David said preliminary investigation showed that Palacios, a resident of Koblerville, had an argument with her son who was then driving the car.

Palacios jumped from the moving vehicle and landed into the direct path of a tour bus. The bus struck the victim, causing severe injuries to her head and lower extremities.

Medics treated Palacios at the scene and rushed her to CHC where she immediately underwent surgery.

David said the victim was subsequently referred to a Philippine hospital.

"Police have reason to believe that alcohol was contributing factor and placed his case under further investigation status," David said.

No one was arrested.

Meanwhile, David said police served yesterday the summons to Angel M. Palacios, who was found by investigators at fault over a vehicular crash that left 20-year-old Aniceto T. Taitano dead and four persons, including Palacios, injured.

Police said Palacios was under the influence of alcohol and was driving a pick-up truck in a reckless manner. The injured victims were his passengers.

The truck served to the opposite lane along Dandan main road and collided with a Mazda SUV. The driver of the SUV was not injured.

The case against Palacios was dismissed, but the Office of the Attorney General re-opened the case.

Alien workers to hold another gathering to press improved status

The United Workers Movement-NMI will conduct another gathering tomorrow, Friday, to press for alien workers' battle for improved immigration status.

UWM president Rabby Syed told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that on Friday they will hold their second pocket meeting of the month in front of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's office at TSL Building in Garapan between 4pm to 7pm.

"We are calling dignitaries from the local community who support our plight to join us," Syed said.

He said former Rep. Tina Sablan joined them in their first pocket meeting at the same place last Feb. 5 in which over 100 workers and local supporters showed up.

Syed said during the meeting workers are free to express their comments on video, which will then be submitted to the U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Congress.

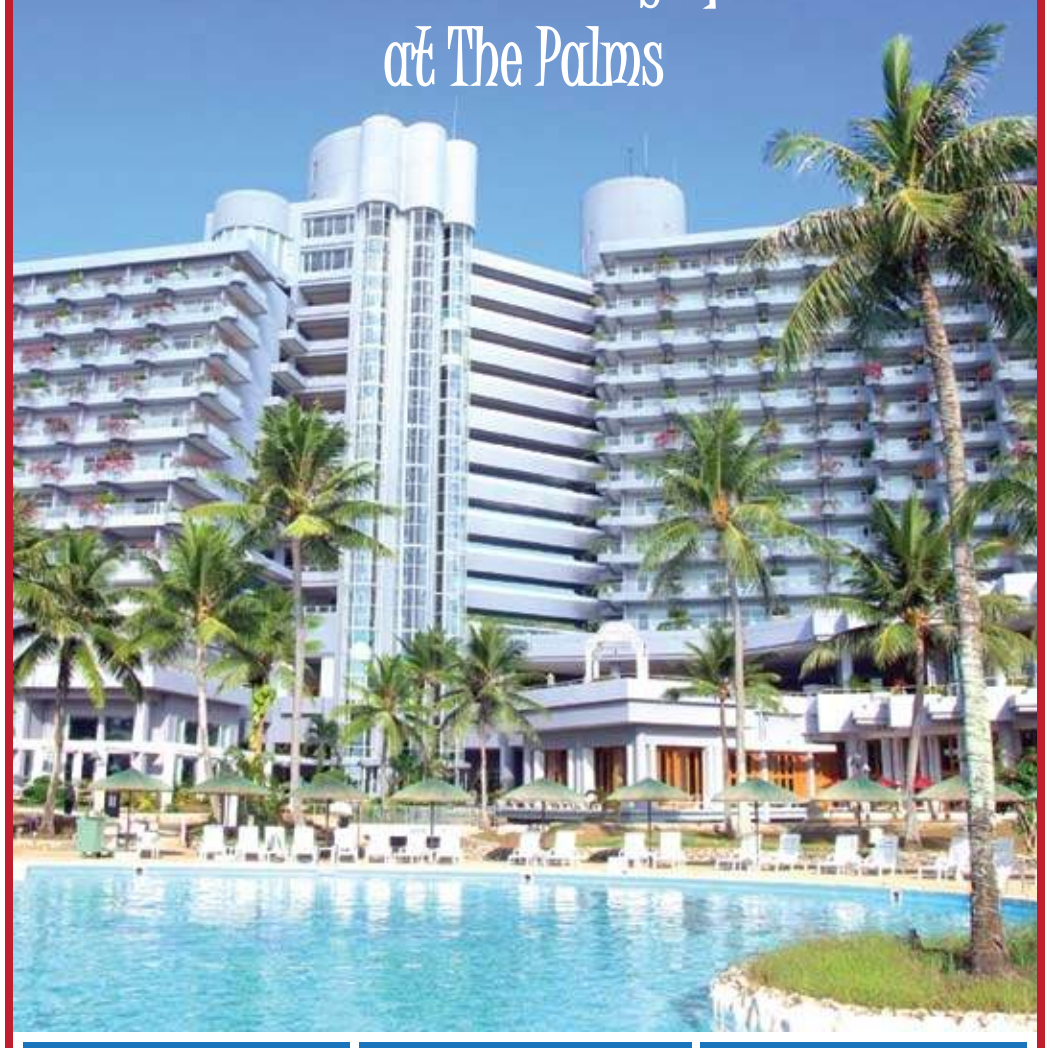
"We will discuss the workers' present situation regarding our status and what we should do. People can come up and share ideas to make the movement strong," he said.

During the meeting, Syed said, they will also hold a barbecue. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

STOP DIABETES FOOT AND JOINT PAIN
IMPROVED SENSATION, BALANCE & CIRCULATION
PACIFIC HOME HEALTH CARE
670-234-CARE
Call us today for a free Anodyne Therapy consultation, home safety evaluation and fall risk assessment.

IMMIGRATION LAW
Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION
Available services include
• U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
• U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
• Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
• Status Clarification
Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081
Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan

The Palms on PauPau Beach
2nd Year Anniversary Specials at The Palms



Food & Beverage Promotion
Enjoy a variety of dinner selections at Minami or Kaenju restaurant and receive ONE GLASS OF CHAMPANGE
valid until 2/28/2010
other conditions may apply
Stay the Ultimate Dream Night Promotion
Stay the night during the month of February 2010 and receive a bottle of champange & chocolate upon arrival
$98.00 for 2
inclusive of breakfast for 2
(plus 10% tax)
valid until 2/28/2010
subject to availability
other conditions may appy.
POOL BASH
Sat. 2/27/2010
10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm
Free Pool (no entrance fee)
Food & Drinks
Live Entertainment
Pool/Beach Activities
Food Eating Contest
Raffle Giveaways
plus much more!!!
For more information or reservation, please call 322-3311.

NMC places academic librarian on 'admin leave'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College academic librarian Adnan Raza has been placed on administrative leave since Tuesday last week.

The college, however, remains mum on the reason behind Raza's administrative leave, saying that it does not comment publicly on specific personnel matters to protect the privacy of individual employees.

Raza was hired by NMC in December 2009.

Herbert Del Rosario, whose title is director for Pacific Collection & CNMI Archives, has been named the new acting director of library programs and services while Raza maintains his title," the college statement said yesterday.

It added that the position of director for library programs and services position is currently being announced and NMC is actively recruiting to fill the vacancy with a candidate who is highly qualified and knowledgeable.

Uninterrupted services

NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera yesterday said that they are confident on Del Rosario's leadership in handling the library operation.

"We are confident in Herbert's leadership and management abilities during this transition period. He will ensure that the library continues to provide students the resources and information they need to achieve their educational goals," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* in a statement.

She added that the college library is also home to several other knowledgeable and capable employees who understand students' needs for information in a timely and efficient manner.

Cabrera emphasized that NMC students and community members can expect to receive the usual, exceptional service and assistance from library staff while the recruitment process for a new director of Library Programs and Services is underway.

At present, Library Programs and Services has three physical branches on the Saipan campus and is responsible for library holdings on Tinian and Rota.

The libraries on the Saipan campus are the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library, the Pacific Collection, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI) Archives, and the Curriculum Resource Center (CRC), an education library held in concert with the School of Education.

GOVT

From Page 1

If the quarterly trend continues, then the government may have an over-expenditure of $52 million by the end of FY 2010 on Sept. 30, unless expenses are further curtailed and a House austerity bill implementing both an eight-hour work reduction per pay period and unpaid holidays is passed.

If the austerity measure proposed by House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) is implemented by the pay period beginning on Feb. 28, then the government may be able to reduce its deficit by almost $5.16 million, finance and budget officials said.

There are 13 pay periods and five holidays between Feb. 28 and Sept. 30.

In FY 2009, the government's budget deficit or overspending was estimated at over $16.86 million.

Acting Finance Secretary Robert A. Schrack, Special Assistant for Management and Budget Virginia C. Villagomez, and budget analyst Jack Blanco asked senators to support Basa's austerity measures bill deficit in FY 2010.

Basa's committee has yet to formally recommend passage of the bill, and the House has yet to call for another session.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao (Ind-Rota) invited finance and budget officials yesterday to discuss the FY 2010 budget, government revenues and austerity measures bills.

"As of this time, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee is waiting for the House passage of the austerity bill. The committee will be making a decision based on the outcome of the House action," Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Villagomez said the $13 million overspent in the first quarter may not be reflected in the succeeding quarters' overspending because some of the payments made by the Department of Public Health, for example, were "one-time obligations."

But even with reduced spending in the succeeding three quarters, the government still has a lot of belt-tightening to do to live within the $150 million budget in FY 2010.

Finance data released yesterday shows that of the $13,049,685 overspent between October and December 2009, $7,526,329 was due to Department of Public Health expenses including medical referral costs, while $3,301,510 went to personnel, and $2,221,846 went to utilities.

FY 2007 austerity savings

Based on Finance data, the government was able to save over $4.495 million in FY 2007 when it implemented "austerity Fridays" wherein government work hours were reduced by eight hours or every other Friday every pay period.

The government expected over $6.943 million in savings with the FY 2007 austerity bill but realized only over $4.495 million covering 26 pay periods.

But the austerity bill proposed in the 17th Legislature will be able to cover only 13 pay periods and five holidays if it is implemented in the pay period beginning on Feb. 28.

Deadlock

The previous House budget bill identified budgetary resources of $162.820 million, which the Senate agreed on. But while the House bill pegs the appropriations at $150,288,886, the Senate amended it to $154,418,886 and included austerity measures like a 16-hour cut in government work hours per pay period to help reduce the projected deficit of $15.3 million in FY 2010.

But the previous Senate and House were deadlocked on the FY 2010 budget. The government is thus operating under a continuing budget resolution since Oct. 1, 2009.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier said that the Fitial administration will maintain a $150 million budget package for FY 2011. The administration has until April 1 to submit an FY 2011 budget proposal to the Legislature.

MAN

From Page 1

months concurrently. It means that the total jail term for the two offenses is 135 months.

Munson pointed out that methamphetamine is a horrible destructive drug that has affected many lives in the community.

The judge said the 135 months jail term is sufficiently strict, harsh sentence that would hopefully deter other people from engaging in that conduct in the future.

Munson said after completing the jail term, Lian will be placed on five years of supervised release.

After the release, the defendant will be turned over to a duly authorized immigration official for deportation proceedings.

Munson said if deportation fails to occur and the defendant is released pending further immigration proceedings, he shall immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office to begin his term of supervision.

The judge required the defendant to perform 500 hours of community work service and pay a $200 special assessment fee.

Munson waived all fines.

Lian and counsel, Robert T. Torres, signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government represented by assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto.

Last Oct. 22, Lian pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute "ice" and possession of a controlled substance.

According to the plea agreement, from Oct. 23, 2008 through Aug. 17, 2009, Lian conspired with Biao Huang and others to distribute "ice."

At yesterday's hearing, Benedetto recommended a 135-month jail term, while attorney Torres concurred with the prosecution's recommendation.

Lian apologized to his wife, community, court, prosecution, and to his lawyer for the crimes that he committed.

Lian stated he is leaving his wife to support his two children because he is going to be in jail for 11 years.

The remorseful defendant stated he realized his serious mistake.

Benedetto told *Saipan Tribune* that the message is that there are serious penalties associated with distribution of methamphetamine and that if someone is caught dealing "ice" he or she is going to jail for a long time.

Torres, on the other hand, said the sentence of 135 months is sufficient but not greater than necessary to impose punishment, given the amount of drugs involved.

"The court meted a severe sentence but with the future opportunity for Mr. Lian to be reunited with his wife and their two young sons in their hometown of Dayang Town, China. Mr. Lian was remorseful," Torres said.

Torres said Lian used to work in China with his parents on their farm and came to Saipan as a construction worker.

"He was resolute in accepting his fate from the court, that his desperation to support his family for lack of payment of wages could not justify the conduct. Unable to change the past, Mr. Lian apologizes to the community for his misconduct," the lawyer said.

A total of 947 grams worth $473,000 was reportedly seized from Lian and co-defendant Biao Huang during a buy-bust operation inside a room in a hotel. Two other defendants—Chun Mei Li and Ya Bin Huang—were also arrested for selling "ice." For the entire DEA operation, a total of 1,021.4 grams worth $510,000 was reportedly seized—the biggest "ice" haul in the CNMI so far.

The jury trial of Biao Huang was set for April 5, 2010.

On Tuesday, Munson sentenced Ya Bin Huang to 36 months with credit for the time he already served in jail.

Munson placed the defendant on four years of supervised release and required him to pay a $100 special assessment fee and perform 100 hours of community work service.

The judge ordered that the gold Rolex watch that was taken from Huang upon his arrest, be forfeited and auctioned by the U.S. Marshal as a fine.

Huang testified that his watch was worth $1,000.

Benedetto recommended 37 months in prison and four years of probation.

Attorney Steven Pixley recommended 37 months and requested to waive any fine.

Huang and Ms. Chun Mei Lin were charged over the sale of 14.1 grams of "ice" to a Drug Enforcement Administration's cooperating source in a sting operation on Aug. 29, 2008.

According to DEA, Huang was the companion of Miss Lin who sold 15 grams of "ice" worth $6,000 to a DEA confidential source in the parking of a store in Chalan Kanoa.

Lin was also reportedly found in possession of 40 more grams of "ice" on July 28, 2009.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

the CNMI's largest business organization.

The Chamber, which has some 150 members, submitted yesterday its 11-page official comment on the military buildup's draft environmental impact statement to the Joint Guam Program Office.

Feb. 17 in Washington, D.C. or Feb. 18 on Saipan is the deadline for submitting comments on the draft EIS.

"We ask that the military be more forthright in acknowledging the great likelihood of negative impacts on the Commonwealth by virtue of the Guam buildup, and proposed more substantial and equitable mitigation measures along the lines of those requested above and by the Tinian Chamber of Commerce," Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas A. Brennan told JGPO.

The Chamber said that while it is an ardent supporter of America's military, it believes that any military expansion such as the Guam buildup entails costs to the community.

It said the draft EIS devotes extensive consideration to the costs and potential mitigating actions relative to Guam but there is no real acknowledgement of the costs to Tinian and the CNMI, "and even less discussion of how to mitigate those negative impacts."

"It rings hollow to suggest that 400 troops can train in a community as geographically small and lightly populated as Tinian, that there will be minimal negative impacts, and that there are even fewer mitigating measures that can be identified," the Chamber said.

'Great impact'

The $15- to $20-billion military buildup involves the relocation of more than 8,000 Marines and their 9,000 dependents from Okinawa to Guam, build facilities for recurring aircraft carrier visits, and develop an Army air and missile defense facility on the island. Marine training facilities on Tinian are also proposed.

The Chamber said the military buildup in Guam will have a significantly greater impact on the CNMI than is acknowledged in the draft EIS, both as a result of a live-fire range on Tinian, as well as the larger regional increase in military presence.

"We will lose U.S. workers to Guam, we will lose tourists because of the regional association with United States military training and because of reduced access to tourist sites, we stand to bear increased costs associated with the use of Tinian for live-fire exercises, and we will lose access to recreational and culturally significant areas," said the Chamber.

The business group said possible mitigating measures identified in the draft EIS do not adequately compensate citizens and businesses of the CNMI for the negative impacts that will be visited upon them by a military expansion not of their choice.

In its 11-page comment, the Chamber identified six major areas of concerns on the draft EIS, including the lack of an analysis of socioeconomic impacts to the CNMI vis-à-vis the buildup in Guam, and insufficient mitigation measures proposed.

The Chamber said any potential for economic benefits to the CNMI related to the manufactured or agricultural products will likely be negated by the high cost of inter-island shipping.

It said the draft EIS lacks substantive analysis of the impact of military operations on existing Tinian infrastructure.

The noise analysis relating to the Tinian live-fire range construction and operations relies in modeling and assumptions, and not tested fact, said the business group.

The Chamber also said the proposed mitigation measures with respect to brown tree snake migration are not adequately addressed.

CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho earlier cited socio-economic impacts as the "biggest" concerns about the massive military buildup in the region, including the lack of funding sources to cushion negative effects to the civilian community worth at least $3 billion in Guam alone and an expected decrease in tourist arrivals on Tinian as a result of increased military presence there.

But the Fitial administration, as well as the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee, has yet to release its official comments on the draft EIS.

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce, in its official comment on the draft EIS, said it supports the military buildup but raised several socio-economic and environmental concerns.

In addition to the military buildup on Guam, the CNMI's Tinian is also being considered a relocation site for thousands of Marines from the First Marine Aircraft Wing aviation command at Futenma in Okinawa.

Munson revokes probation of 'ice' trafficker for buying, selling gun

The federal court yesterday revoked the probation of a man who was convicted in 2004 for "ice" trafficking, but violated his probation by buying and selling a gun.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson revoked the supervised release of Vicente A. Sablan and sentenced him to 14 months in prison.

Munson granted the defendant's request to have the court recommend that he be placed in a facility in California rather than Hawaii for better counseling.

Munson ordered Sablan to self-surrender to the U.S. Marshal's Office tomorrow, Friday.

Sablan admitted his violation of the probation. His lawyer, F. Matthew Smith, concurred with the recommendation of assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum for an imposition of 14 months in jail.

U.S. Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson moved to revoke the supervised release of Sablan for violating some probation conditions.

On Sept. 29, 2004, Sablan, also known as Ben Seven, was sentenced to 24 months in jail and three years of supervised release for distribution and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Sablan was released from the Bureau of Corrections on Feb. 28, 2006.

Brunson stated in her report that on March 26, 2008 defendant's supervised release was revoke for 10 months due to more than four admission to drug use in less than a year.

Sablan began his term of supervised release on Jan. 23, 2009.

On June 13, 2009, the defendant's conditions were again modified to include an additional 30 hours of community work service after he tested positive for "ice" on May 18, 2009.

On Dec. 9, 2009, Brunson said, she received information from the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms special agent that Sablan was involved in an illegal transfer of a firearm, AR-15, a semi-automatic rifle.

Brunson said Sablan admitted he purchased the gun earlier that year and that he sold it to another person.

ATF was able to retrieve the gun from the third party.

Brunson said among the probation conditions is that Sablan shall not possess a firearm, ammunition or other dangerous weapons. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Kilili encourages students to apply in JSA program

U.S. Representative Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan announced that Junior Statesman of America is sending representatives Matthew Randazzo and Elliot Nguyen to Saipan this week to promote and recruit for Junior Statesman Summer Program.

Since 1992 the Junior Statesman of America with the help of the Department of the Interior has been inviting students from the U.S. territories to attend their Summer School Program at some of the top universities across the country.

The Northern Mariana Islands has sent 348 students to this program over its 17 year history with the organization.

"The JSA program is geared toward developing leadership and strengthening academic skills in a real college setting. This is a great opportunity for students to explore government and public service and experience college life," said Sablan.

"I encourage the community and JSA Alumni to come out and support JSA and I strongly encourage students, especially high school juniors, to apply for the opportunity," he added .

"Many of the JSA Alumni have become leaders in the community. A shining example is Ms. Roxanne Diaz, who is a Public Health Program Analyst at the CNMI Department of Public Health" explains Sablan.

Diaz shares that "The Public Speaking course at the Yale University Summer Program certainly gave me a taste of what JSA was really about. To realize the leader in me at such a forum did not come easy and ironically marked me for life. The experience gained doing research and debating about issues that were significant to me was JSA's "planting a seed" moment in my young life that I still credit in both my personal and professional life today."

The JSA Summer School Program is held at Georgetown, Princeton, and Stanford universities and geared toward students who are interested in government, politics, and public service. Students take actual college level courses and have the opportunity to meet political leaders from all over the nation.

"The Department of the Interior is offering four complete scholarships to CNMI students this year, each valued at approximately $7,000. That puts the program in reach for many families who might not be able to participate otherwise in these tough economic times," said Sablan.

"And planning for this opportunity does not only have to come only when you are juniors," Sablan added. "Ask about the program now and make your plan to attend one, two, or three years from now."

JSA will be visiting the various CNMI high schools throughout the week to speak to interested students. To find out more about the JSA Summer School Program, visit the JSA website at www.jsa.org. ***(PR)***

Golden Harvest congratulates PGFC winners

Golden Harvest International School participated in the interschool Primary Grade Forensic Conference held last Feb. 6 at San Vicente Elementary School.

The school expressed its appreciation to all students, teachers, and parents for their time, dedication, and hard work.

"Congratulations to all the winners, the ribbon you bring home gives is pride and joy to strive even better. Keep up the good work and to God be the glory!" said the school in a press statement. Below are the winners:

K-2

Dramatic International School-A
1st place: Daphne Cruzat,
2nd place: Faith Bocago
3rd place: Taylor Letis Romolor

Humorous Interpretation-A
2nd place: John Isaac San Nicolas
5th place: Gerald Raesyl Solis

Duo-A
1st place: Daphne Cruzat, Faith Bocago
2nd place: Marione Corpus, Stephen Rem Bartolo
4th place: Jewl Combinido, Robin Kyle Alvarez

Choral Speaking-A
2nd place: Sebastian Bernardo, Michelle Leon Guerrero, Kayla Raquel, Teody Valenzuela, Raven John Francisco

Dramatic Interpretation B
2nd place: Marione Corpus
3rd place: Stephen Rem Bartolo

Humorous Interpretation B
2nd place: Vince Salvador

Duo-B
1st place: Renz Guiller Fauni, Mark Ira Galang
3rd place: Kennedy Lether Vila, Davean Gonzales

Choral Speaking-B
1st place: Kennedy Luther Vila, Devean Gonzales, Mark Ira Galang, Aaron Esquivel
3rd place: Aaron Ignacio, Robin Kyle Alvarez, Sukey Wu, Brydon Dumagan

3-5 Division

Dramatic Interpretation-A
3rd place: En Ming Cacdac

Readers Forum MC
2nd place: Uzzeil Cobacha

Duo-A
5th place: Kris Angelo Talens, Mathew Leon Guerrero

Choral Speaking-A
1st place: Allen James Aguilar, Mark Daniel Ibanez, Mathew Leon Guerrero, Kris Angelo Talens

Readers Forum MD
3rd place: En Ming Cacad

Duo-B
5th place: Allen James Aguilar, Mark Daniel Ibanez

GIVE THE PERFECT GIFT
THIS VALENTINE'S
Diamonds and Pearls
The BEST value in Smartphones!
HTC Diamond
Smartphone
$150.00*
BlackBerry Pearl™
Smartphone
$99.00*
BlackBerry
Offer valid February 11th thru February 27th
*HTC Diamond: Must sign up for 1 year agreement, 300 minute plan or higher • Must sign up for Smartphone Unlimited Data, $19.95 per month • Single Plan Only • New accounts only • While supplies last
*BlackBerry Pearl™: Must sign up for 1 year agreement, 300 minute plan or higher • Must sign up for BlackBerry Unlimited Data, $39.95 per month • Single Plan Only • New accounts only • While supplies last
IT&E
Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

VERBAL REPRIMAND TRIGGERS FIGHT AT DEQ OFFICE

Manager allegedly beaten up by staff's husband

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A manager at the Division of Environmental Quality sustained injuries after the husband of one of the agency's employees allegedly beat him up inside his office in Gualo Rai Thursday afternoon.

David Rosario, DEQ's branch manager for wastewater, suffered injuries to the left side of body and right side of face.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said yesterday that the suspect, Francisco M. Camacho, was arrested on Saturday at 5:43pm after Superior Court associate judge Ramona Manglona issued an arrest warrant and imposed a $5,000 cash bail.

David said it was Rosario who called DPS 911 last Thursday at 1:16pm after Camacho allegedly assaulted him at DEQ's main office.

David said preliminary investigation showed that at 9am that day, Rosario gave a verbal reprimand to one of the employees, Marcia Camacho, regarding work related matters.

Later that afternoon as Rosario was in his office typing, he was surprised when somebody punched him on the right face, causing him and his eyeglass to fall to the floor.

As Rosario was about to stand up he saw it was Marcia Camacho's husband who punched him.

As he tried to get up, Mr. Camacho held him against the table and continued beating him by punching him on the right side of face and back.

Rosario pleaded with Mr. Camacho to stop, but the defendant allegedly continued punching him and asking him what was he doing with his wife.

Mrs. Camacho later came in the office and stopped the fight, according to the report.

CHC nurse passes nephrology exam

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A registered nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center passed a specialty certification in California, making him the first certified nephrology nurse employed at the hospital.

Karlo Cesar T. Reyes is the center's unit manager in the dialysis center.

He took the nursing specialty certification on Nov. 15, 2009 in Orange County, California where he passed the tedious five-hour test.

Reyes, 31, has been working at the hospital since June 2001. After demonstrating dedication and professionalism in the job, he rose from the ranks and was named the dialysis center's unit manager in August last year.

Since arriving on island, he admitted wanting to become a certified nephrology nurse.

To meet this end, he self-reviewed for months to prepare for the examination.

Reyes said his wide work experience in the areas of chronic kidney diseases, acute therapist, hemodialysis, and post-kidney transplants also contributed to him passing the test. Reyes is the only CHC employee who took the test.

"It has been my dream to become a certified nephrology nurse…and I've been preparing myself for that examination from the start," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he felt so proud and fulfilled he passed it.

Next month, Reyes will start his online master's study after he was accepted by the American Sentinel University in Colorado.

With his tedious job at the hospital, in addition to being a father to three kids, he vowed to fulfill the next challenge in his career.

Reyes vowed to continue to serve the island community and share his skills and knowledge to those who needed them the most.

"In my nine years of working at CHC, I've seen how this small community depends on the expertise and skills of hospital workers. So every time I acquired new knowledge, I want to apply it to the patients…because serving them gives me fulfillment," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Nephrology nurses work in primary, secondary, and tertiary care facilities as well as in patients' homes—wherever individuals experiencing or at risk for kidney disease receive health care.

In inpatient settings, patients are often critically ill and care is fast-paced and challenging. In outpatient settings, the nephrology nurse is an integral member of a multidisciplinary team that cares for patients with complex needs. The nurse in this setting functions as advocate, educator, consultant, care coordinator, and direct caregiver and oversees long-term care of chronically ill patients. As such, the nephrology nurse can have a positive impact on the quality of patients' lives.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Commonwealth Health Center nurse Karlo Cesar T. Reyes, seen here sightseeing in San Francisco, became the first in the CNMI to pass a nephrology nurse certification exam.

DEQ red-flags two sites on Saipan

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on Obyan Beach and Unai Dangkulo and advised the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these two locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from Obyan Beach and Unai Dangkulo contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed water samples collected from Saipan's east and south recreational beaches this week.

Throughout the year, the agency takes samples from 12 Saipan east and south recreational beaches. Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deg.gov.mp and www.cnmicoralreef.net.

Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an email to environment@deq.gov.mp.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(DEQ)***

Tinian Dynasty®
Hotel & Casino
Texas Hold'em Poker cash games available
every Friday & Saturday nights from 7:00pm!
THE CURRENT PACIFIC POKER JACKPOT:
$18,659.71
Accumulative jackpot as of 02/17/10
For further information, please call VIP Services (670) 328-2285

STAR
Marianas Air
SAIPAN / TINIAN CHARTER AVAILABLE 24/7
DISCOVERY FLIGHTS • FLIGHT SEEING TOURS
We offer big discounts on excess capacity seats!
For inquiries please call (670) 433-9998 / (671) 898-3456
or visit www.starmarianasair.com

Ada: SBDC is step toward economic recovery

The Department of Commerce recently executed a Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Guam's Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network to re-establish the CNMI's Small Business Development Center.

The SBDC was previously established in the CNMI and housed at the Northern Marianas College. However the program partnership with the CNMI was ended and never re-established until now. The purpose of the SBDC is to provide technical assistance, resources, and guidance to U.S. small business owners who are looking to enter into business, expand their operations, and survive economic hardships.

"The re-establishment of the SBDC is a significant step towards this administration's effort on economic recovery. This administration has taken a two-pronged approach towards recovery, with efforts focusing on development of local businesses, as well as outside investment," said Commerce Secretary Michael Ada.

"The development of our local business community is imperative in pulling ourselves out of the economic hardship that we are experiencing. The SBDC provides the technical and proven guidance that will aid new entrepreneurs to developing a successful and sustainable business. It is also a resource for existing U.S. small businesses looking to expand business operations, but more importantly it will serve as a tremendous resource for our local businesses looking for ways and assistance on surviving these trying times." added Ada.

Casey Jeszenka, Network Director of the Pacific Islands SBDC Network said, "The University of Guam's PISBDCN is excited to be partnering with the CNMI Department of Commerce to once again help existing and new businesses in the CNMI start and expand. With the CNMI SBDC being a member of the PISBDCN, it will be tied to a network of service centers across the nation that can help to provide valuable information and resources to the CNMI."

The SBDC is a collaborative partnership between the CNMI Department of Commerce, the Commonwealth Development Authority, the University of Guam, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

For its part, the CNMI Department of Commerce will provide the facility in which the SBDC will be housed, as well as partial funding for the SBDC Director and support staff. The Commonwealth Development Authority will provide financial assistance for program operations and professional services. The University of Guam will provide partial funding for SBDC personnel, technical resources, and equipment through a grant they receive from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

"The re-establishment of the SBDC is step one in a comprehensive strategy that is aimed at boosting our local economy. While we take measures in boosting our local economy, we also need to continue our focus on attracting outside investment into the islands. There is no silver bullet which will fix our economy, but rather it is a combination of efforts, inclusive of developing local businesses, attracting fitting outside investments, and availing of federal programs which are geared at stimulating our local and national economies," said Ada.

BEACH CLEANUP & BBQ CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Saturday, Feb. 13, Kagman High School JROTC conducted a barbecue beach cleanup at Micro Beach. There were 48 cadets and two JROTC Instructors that participated in this event. After the work was finished, the cadets had a barbecue lunch for all of their good efforts to keep the island's environment clean.

NMC offers course to improve PRAXIS score

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term courses to individuals preparing to take the PRAXIS I and II examinations.

The courses are offered as part of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

Additionally, the courses are designed to give potential test-takers an idea of what to expect on the PRAXIS I and II exams. The PRAXIS I Prep Course will cover Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) Math, PPST Writing, and PPST Reading; while the PRAXIS II Prep Course will cover Literature & Language Arts, Mathematics, History & Social Studies, and Sciences. Both courses are open to all elementary teachers in the private and public school systems.

PRAXIS II Preparatory Course
Instructor: Richard Waldo
February 27, 2010 (Saturday)
1:30pm to 4:30pm
Room D-1(NMC Campus)
Fee: $60 (Course materials included)

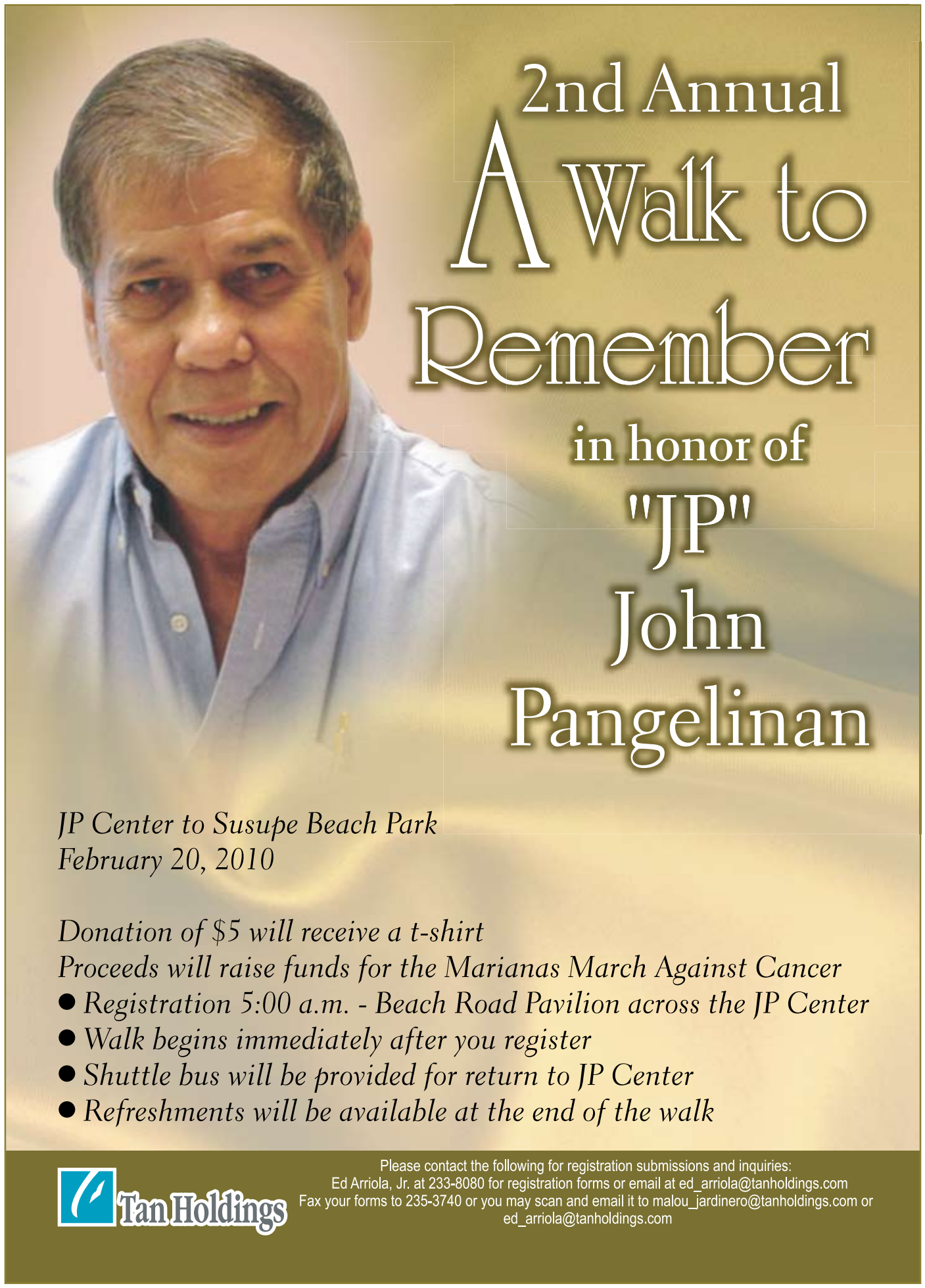
PRAXIS II Preparatory Test
Instructor: Richard Waldo
March 6, 2010 (Saturday)
1:30pm to 4:30pm
Room D-1(NMC Campus)
Fee: $60 (Course materials included)

PRAXIS I Preparatory Course
Instructor: Jesus Taisague
April 3, 2010 (Saturday)
8:30am to 12pm
Room D-1(NMC Campus)
Fee: $60 (Course materials included)

PRAXIS I Preparatory Test
Instructor: Jesus Taisague
April 10, 2010 (Saturday)
8:30am to 12pm
Room D-1(NMC Campus)
Fee: $60 (Course materials included

For a more detailed description of the course, please contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1010 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

All interested individuals should register at least seven days before the day of the course. Certificates of participation will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class. To register or for more information about the courses, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call John Manalo at 234-5498 ext. 1010 or e-mail johnm@nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

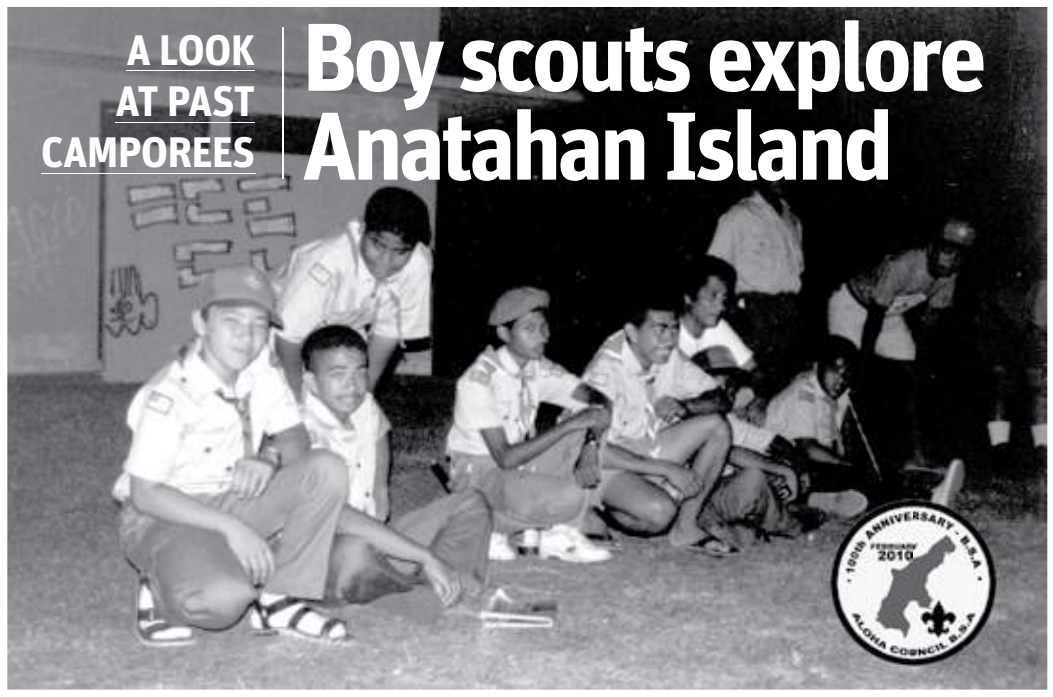

2nd Annual
A Walk to Remember
in honor of
"JP"
John Pangelinan
JP Center to Susupe Beach Park
February 20, 2010
Donation of $5 will receive a t-shirt
Proceeds will raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer
● Registration 5:00 a.m. - Beach Road Pavilion across the JP Center
● Walk begins immediately after you register
● Shuttle bus will be provided for return to JP Center
● Refreshments will be available at the end of the walk
Tan Holdings
Please contact the following for registration submissions and inquiries:
Ed Arriola, Jr. at 233-8080 for registration forms or email at ed_arriola@tanholdings.com
Fax your forms to 235-3740 or you may scan and email it to malou_jardinero@tanholdings.com or
ed_arriola@tanholdings.com

A LOOK AT PAST CAMPOREES

Boy scouts explore Anatahan Island

By OSCAR C. CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author is the Troop Committee chairman for the NMI Boy Scouts. As part of celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, the Saipan Tribune *is publishing a series of articles featuring past camporees and activities of the local boy scouts program. The following is an excerpt of a longer article.*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local Boys Scouts pose for a photo circa 1992.

A tempest is overcoming our stay and the *Challenger* is attempting to set its bow on the rocks. A Bud light in front and family members around and telling them of the adventure; envy seeps into the conversation and is expected. Justice V. had mentioned earlier today he'd like to have a clean set meal, preferably at a Chinese restaurant. Mr. Ben also noted he'd go and have dinner at a restaurant. Well, a barbeque would do for the boys but the Tempest gad its claw extended to Saipan and dropping the boy's home seemed a better idea. Family should come first and families were thankful and happy.

Early morning adventure calls for another killing and Paul Santos got the last kill. Mr. Stan and Mr. P. Deleon Guerrero skinned the goat. Deciding it was safer and, almost healing, to go at a hill alone, I decide to trek further up where I concluded these animals either have wings, run sideways on the vertical side of a rugged terrain, or have magical powers preventing then from any fall. I found out yesterday I was not fish, today I'm not a goat, and decided that if I did hunt and catch no crabs then I would not be a coconut crab. Robert Magofna said these animals are made for Anatahan—it's their home and not yours."

This morning we attempt to go to the village; the *Challenger* decided not to chance with the weather. A storm was forming and the waves were getting bigger and rougher. It was then impossible to go to the village, and it would be worse climbing down and jumping off the cliff rocks at the campsite once the wind changes direction. The adults decided to cook six crabs for lunch, and rather than lunch, a fiesta on crabs was held. No bats; and we would not know whether the villagers did prepare the bats for our fiesta. Nonetheless, a crab fiesta was more satisfying. Two Wildlife and Forestry officials objected to our cooking the crabs. They suggested we tie them down and do not allow them to hold us back from having our feast. The crabs done and the flies came and so did the two officials joining us feast. Tony, of course had to have the largest of the largest "damagas." We feasted after we had put down our tents. Boys and adults carried backpacks, boxes, containers, tents, and other supplies and equipment down to the second tier of the lattered cliff.

A human line was formed and the complains came from adults bringing down filled five gallons tanks of water. The boys followed orders, but not without forceful commands from Mr. Cal. We boarded the *Challenger* and the flies did not even bother to bid us farewell. The *Challenger* headed to the village attempt to a second time to pick up the Mayor. The waves had gotten worse in contrast to the morning swells. The *Challenger* made efforts to decide whether to wait or to go out to sea. It was not decided yet when I convinced myself that sleep would be the best option then. The boys had taken bunks for themselves. Some adults were by then dozed off. I closed my eyes in Anatahan and woke up to see Managaha—luxury—better than anything I'd ridden on sea, the *Challenger*. The Taga spirit was awakening in Anatahan and the boys released it. The boys did not tire, did not fear, and only got sick once in a while from smelling the diesel smoke. They endured the voyage, did not empty their guts of vomit. Instead they've enriched their bodies, minds, souls and that which we call life, a boy's life—a Taga adventure.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
1 9 7 7
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its ***Annual Board and Money Manager's meeting*** from **Monday, February 22, 2010 to Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Hyatt Regency (Sand Castle), Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 A. Call to Order
 B. Roll Call
 C. Adoption of Agenda
 D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings:
  1. October 15, 2009
  2. January 28, 2010
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. 2010 ANNUAL MONEY MANAGER'S MEETING
IV. REPORTS
 A. Report of the Chairman
  1. ROC No. 10-005
 B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
  1. ROA No. 10-005
   a) Status Updates
 C. Report of the Comptroller
  1. Drawdown Requests
 D. Reports of the Committees
  1. Finance & Investment Committee
  2. Operations & Personnel Committee
  3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
  4. GH&L and WCC Committee
 E. Communications
  1. Internal Auditor Reports
 F. Other Matters
V. LEGAL MATTERS
 A. Reports of the Legal Counsels
  1. Report of the Board Counsel
   a) Lawsuit
    i) Report of the Post Judgment Negotiation Panel
   b) Other Legal Matters
  2. Report of the In-House Counsel
   a) Update on Administrative Appeals
  3. Report of the Hearing Officer
VI. OLD BUSINESS
 A. BR 08-001 Matters
  1. Disability Applicants
 B. MHL – Bank Pacific
 C. Life Insurance Update
 D. Health Insurance Update
 E. NMIRF 07-001
VII. NEW BUSINESS
 A. FY2011 Budget Call
VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
X. MISCELLANEOUS
 A. Announcements
 B. Next Meeting
 C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DPW-058

SUBMISSION: MARCH 17, 2010 TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"GROUNDWATER, LEACHATE AND GAS TESTING AT THE MARPI SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (MSWF)"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INTERESTED POPOSERS SHOULD SUBMIT ALL QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION IN WRITING TO NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MARCH 08, 2010 TO THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION BY FAX TO (670) 322-2762 OR EMAIL AT dpwsolidwaste@pticom.com.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 18, 1999

Young's panel, legislators to meet

Members of the CNMI Legislature are set to meet today visiting Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) and other delegates of the U.S. House Resources Committee to discuss labor and immigration issues in what local lawmakers consider critical in their efforts to thwart a federal takeover here. The meeting is also a prelude to the scheduled travel of House Speaker Diego T. Benavente and Senate President Paul A. Manglona to Washington D.C. next week in yet another attempt to lobby U.S. Congress against the federalization plan. Young, chair of the House Resources Committee which has jurisdiction over the Northern Marianas, along with 26 other participants, including seven U.S. lawmakers, arrives today for a three-day visit on Saipan as part of the tour of Micronesian region.

Escape sparks worries on tourists' safety

The Japan-Saipan Travel Association has expressed concern on the safety of Japanese tourists on the island as six inmates including three murderers, a rapist and child molester who bolted out of prison Monday night remain at large. As a precautionary measure, tour operators will caution the Japanese travelers to be extra careful in roaming around the island while the convicts are still roaming around the island, said Kiyoshi Aikawa, president of JSTA. His main advise to Japanese tourists: Do not go out at night. When you leave the hotel, make sure you go out with a group.

Feb. 18, 2000

DOLI says more locals referred to private employers

Despite the slowdown in the island's economy, the Department of Labor and Immigration has been able to reduce unemployment among local residents with the implementation of a new system in the agency. According to Alfred A. Pangelinan, director of Employment Services, registration in the job referral and placement program of DOLI shot up by 500 last year compared to 1998 with a total of 2,001 registered applicants. "As we see an improvement, we expect things to get better this year since we were able to provide jobs seven times more in 1999 than in previous year," he said. "As we see an improvement, we expect things to get better this year since we were able to provide jobs seven times more in 1999 than in previous year," he said.

Public opinion on business and labor reform bill sought

The House committee on commerce and tourism is starting to consolidate public concerns on the proposed legislative measure that will lift the limit on the number of nonresident workers and garment factories in the Northern Marianas. According to committee chair Rep. Florencio T. DL Guerrero, a public hearing will be conducted Tuesday next week to solicit popular opinion on the legislation sponsored by House Speaker Ben Fitial. Mr. Guerrero said the House committee on tourism, to which the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act of 2000 was tossed for review, will receive oral and written testimonies from the private sector during the public hearing at 1:00 p.m. at the House Chamber.

Feb. 18, 2002

PSS sees $600K shortfall in FY02 personnel funds

The Public School System gave Board of Education members last week a run-down of the public education sector's fiscal outlook, which, in part, forecasts a shortfall in personnel support if the current funding level for FY 2002 remains at $37.7 million. The personnel deficit is expected to reach $600,000, which covers current PSS full time equivalents, including new hires, according to acting PSS Fiscal and Budget Officer William Matson. Data in the PSS Fiscal Outlook report indicates that the system can maintain its current FTE if over $700,000 is secured to support the costs of opening two new schools next school year.

Interracial marriages complicate NMI's land ownership discussions

F. Matthew Smith, one of the lawyers of the Commonwealth Development Authority who handles loan collection lawsuits, said there were only a few instances where problems arose in relation to Article XII. "There was recently a lease that appeared to or have potential for being a lease that violated Article XII, and that was screened out. That's typically how the CDA does it," Smith said. But he cited that the intent of Article XII was not to make the alienation of land to foreigners permanently based on section 805 of the Covenant and federal court rulings.

Pacific

Whaling protester to be charged in Japan

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)—An anti-whaling activist from New Zealand is in custody on a Japanese vessel and will be taken to Japan to face charges after secretly boarding the ship as part of a protest, officials said Tuesday.

Peter Bethune, a member of the U.S.-based Sea Shepherd activist group, jumped aboard the Shonan Maru 2 from a Jet Ski on Monday with the stated goal of making a citizen's arrest of the ship's captain and presenting him with a $3 million bill for the destruction of a protest ship last month.

The Japanese government has decided to bring Bethune to Japan for questioning, Fisheries Agency official Osamu Ishikawa said. He will be charged with trespassing and assault and tried under Japanese law, Ishikawa said.

He said officials were working out the details of how to transport Bethune to Japan—whether to keep him on the vessel, which will be at sea for a few more weeks, or to drop him off in a port call and fly him back.

The brazen boarding was the latest escalation of a campaign by Sea Shepherd to hamper Japanese whaling activities.

AP

In this Feb. 10, 2010, photo released by Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Captain Peter Bethune poses onboard the MV *Steve Irwin*, in the Southern Ocean. Bethune, an anti-whaling activist with the U.S.-based Sea Shepherd group, was being held in custody on board a Japanese whaling vessel Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010, after secretly boarding it the day before, the whalers said.

Japan's Institute of Cetacean Research, which sponsors the whale hunt, said Bethune used a knife to cut the vessel's protective net to enable his boarding and that he told whalers he then threw the knife into the sea. The crew treated him for a cut on his thumb he received while boarding, the institute said.

Under Japanese law, intruding on a Japanese vessel without legitimate reasons can bring a prison term of up to three years and a fine up to 100,000 yen (US$1,100).

Bethune was being held in a room by himself with guards posted outside, Fisheries Ministry official Toshinori Uoya said.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully said it seemed Bethune's intention was to be detained aboard the whaling ship, but his country nevertheless had an obligation to try to help him and was seeking cooperation from Japanese diplomats.

McCully met Japan's ambassador Tuesday, and New Zealand's top diplomat in Japan met senior officials there Monday.

Sea Shepherd said Bethune demanded the cost of replacing the Ady Gil, an activist ship he captained that was destroyed in a collision with the Shonan Maru 2 last month, and the surrender of the whaling ship's captain on attempted murder charges.

The Ady Gil sank after the collision, though there were only minor injuries.

Japan has six whaling ships in Antarctic waters under its scientific whaling program, an allowed exception to the International Whaling Commission's 1986 ban on commercial whaling. It hunts hundreds of mostly minke whales, which are not an endangered species. Whale meat not used for study is sold for consumption in Japan, which critics say is the real reason for the hunts.

The Sea Shepherd sends vessels to confront the fleet each year, trying to block the whalers from firing harpoons and dangling ropes in the water to try to snarl the Japanese ships' propellers. The whalers have responded by firing water cannons and sonar devices meant to disorient the activists.

US civilian employee sentenced to 10 years

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A 56-year-old civilian employee at a U.S. military base in Japan has been sentenced in federal court on Guam to 10 years in prison for sexually abusing a minor.

U.S. Attorney Leonardo M. Rapadas said Tuesday that it was the first Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act case prosecuted in the U.S. territory.

The law, passed in 2000, allows the federal government to try former soldiers, their spouses and contractors in civilian courts for crimes that happened overseas.

Bruce Carey Wood was indicted July 29 and pleaded guilty Oct. 5.

Rapadas says Wood worked at Camp Shields in Okinawa, Japan, when he engaged in a sexual act with a person who was at least 12 but not yet 16.

Rapadas says the case is proof that "no one is beyond the law."

Pacific Warfighting Center in Pearl Harbor opens

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)—The military is opening a $48 million high-tech facility in Pearl Harbor it expects to use for exercises, training and battle simulations.

Commanders may also use the Pacific Warfighting Center to direct forces during disaster relief efforts and war.

Navy Adm. Robert Willard, the head of the U.S. Pacific Command, told an audience gathered for Tuesday's opening ceremony that the facility has already helped relief efforts in Haiti.

The military spent $25.8 million to build the center and $22 million on telecommunications infrastructure for the building on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor.

Hawaii's U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye says the country's allies can use the center to help practice joint operations with the U.S.

FEBRUARY IS

NATIONAL PARENT LEADERSHIP® MONTH

Raffle Drawings!
Child Care
Serving Lunch

WHAT	Parent Development Workshop
WHEN	February 20, 2010
WHERE	Kagman Elementary School
TIME	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Education, Healthy Nutrition
Family Planning & Coping Skills

To register and for further information, please contact the DYS Parent Education Program at 664-2552 or Child Protection Unit at 664-2565/7.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 41

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Jobs bill is latest study in political dysfunction

The unemployment rate is 9.7 percent. White House forecasters predict it will remain around that grim level through the rest of the year. So, not surprisingly, the one thing everyone in the fractious United States seems to agree on is the need for jobs. Voters tell pollsters it's their top concern. President Barack Obama has offered ideas. Congressional Republicans and Democrats have chimed in with their proposals. Politicians of both parties are pledging earnestly to work together to "get something done."

And yet, despite this superficially propitious climate for government action, confusion reigns. Here is what has happened in the past couple of days. Sens. Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, produced an $85 billion draft bill whose centerpiece was a proposal to cut payroll taxes for businesses that hire unemployed workers. The White House praised it, saying it included "several of the president's top priorities for job creation." Then, suddenly, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., spiked it in favor of his own narrower $15 billion bill. He claimed that the Baucus-Grassley product was so full of routine tax break extensions that it "watered down" the job-creation "message." Translation: He got an earful from other Democratic senators about the bill's political liabilities. Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., objects to the idea of any jobs tax credit. She's chagrined, to put it mildly, that the president and the Senate aren't behind the $145 billion bill, laden with spending on traditional Democratic priorities, that her chamber passed in the name of job creation in December.

To be sure, we're skeptical about how many durable private-sector jobs any of these measures would actually "create." The payroll tax cut, which is the brainchild of Democrat Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Republican Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, is relatively efficient as such measures go—possibly simpler and quicker-acting than the tax credit that Obama has proposed. Yet like the president's scheme, it pays employers to speed up hiring they probably would have done eventually anyway, which is not quite the same as "creating" jobs.

What's noteworthy is how much trouble Congress and the White House have agreeing on even a tepid economic bill. Under the pressure of a brutal recession and the November election, Republicans and Democrats are unable to work together even when they agree on a purpose. We may soon look back nostalgically on the days when partisanship was Washington's biggest problem.

(c) 2010, The Washington Post

Ponzi schemes

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

When Charles Ponzi stepped off the ship in Boston in 1903 he only had $2.50 in his pocket because he'd gambled away most of his life's savings. The Italian native quickly learned English and worked several odd jobs along the East Coast for several years before moving to Montreal in 1907 to become an assistant teller in a bank that offered high-interest returns to its depositors. After Ponzi was promoted to bank manager, he discovered that the bank was in serious financial trouble and that the owner was funding the high interest payments with money from newly opened accounts. The bank failed and the owner took the money from the bank and fled to Mexico. Ponzi lost his job and would later serve the first of many prison terms for writing a worthless counterfeit check.

In 1911, he returned to the U.S. to seek his fortune and got involved in a scheme to smuggle illegal Italian immigrants across the border. He was caught and spent two years in prison where he met an incarcerated individual who would serve as his role model—Charles Morse, a wealthy Wall Street businessman and speculator.

After prison, Charles Ponzi stumbled upon a scheme that allowed him to use his past experiences to earn millions within a few months. It was based on a form of arbitrage that created profits from buying an asset at a lower price (international reply coupons) in Italy, and then selling it in the U.S. for postage stamps. He soon found that even though the gross profit margin was huge, the cost to handle the purchase and redemption of the items wiped out any profits. This didn't deter Ponzi, though, from telling people that he could double their investment in 90 days. Word quickly spread and as more people invested, he was able to pay out the interest earnings to the earlier investors. Within a few months he was handling millions in transactions and gained controlling interest in a bank. Ponzi made no effort to generate legitimate profits and the company was operating at a huge loss. However, as long as more people invested, existing investors could be paid with the new money. Charles Ponzi and his scheme were eventually exposed, and a lot of his investors were left broke.

Ponzi would serve more time in prison, continue to swindle others, and eventually die penniless. His name, though, will forever be associated with people or entities that gain the confidence of unsuspecting targets to bilk them out of their hard-earned money with the hope of a brighter future.

There have been many variations of the Ponzi scheme over the years. Bernard Madoff is notorious for orchestrating the largest financial investor fraud in history, with an estimated loss of $64.8 billion. However, we are witnesses to the greatest Ponzi scheme to ever be perpetrated on the American people, and that would make Charles Ponzi green with envy if he were alive today.

Massive bailouts and record-breaking deficits have added incredibly to the national debt. The $1.4 trillion dollar budget deficit is making many investors anxious about the United State's skyrocketing red ink. Where is all this money coming from, and who is going to be stuck with the tab?

The Federal Reserve (Fed) is a private bank that operates to control interest and the money supply in order to stabilize the economy (monetary policy). The chairman is appointed by the President, but the Fed operates independently from Congress and it is interested in profits, not public service.

When the U.S. government needs to borrow more money it goes to the Fed, who then creates the money electronically ex nihilo (out of nothing) by increasing credit in its own bank account. This is called fiat currency, which is money that derives its value by being declared "money" by the government to be legal tender. Fiat money, without exception, has always ended up losing value.

The Fed "prints" its notes in the form of green pieces of paper and it swaps them for pink pieces of paper called U.S. Treasury bonds. The Federal Reserve bought approximately 80 percent of the U.S. Treasury securities issued in 2009, which means it has gobbled up the massive U.S. government debt that has been created over the past year. Normally the Fed tries to sell the bonds to buyers, but there were not enough buyers in 2009, so the Fed sold itself about 80 percent of this debt.

Of course the Fed is making an insane profit on the scheme, as the U.S. government continues to borrow at record-setting levels. The problem is that it will eventually devalue the money that is currently circulating and create greater inflation. If not controlled, this Ponzi scheme will eventually collapse on itself if the economy spirals into hyper-inflation.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Mukden incident

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Regular Opinion page contributor Jaime R. Vergara joined the Beijing-Saipan inaugural flight late January and has sent reports of interest to the CNMI from locations in China where current CNMI residents are from.

There are not too many in the CNMI familiar with the "Sept. 18, 1931 incident" in Chinese history, referred to as the Mukden incident of September in Japan's telling. This marked the triggering of the 2nd Sino-Japanese conflict, which led to the establishment of Manchukuo in Manchuria, the departure of Japan from the League of Nations (the United Nations' predecessor) when the body refused to recognize the independence of the new entity, resulting in the militarization of the Northern Marianas, heretofore, simply Japan's sugar plantation with a tiny tropical Ginza dressed in paper lanterns, finally ushering the start of Japan-United States belligerency and hostility in the Pacific.

Japan's official history claims that Chinese rebels blew up a rail section in Mukden this September day near a Chinese garrison that triggered the "defensive" Japanese forces to initiate the eventual takeover of Manchuria. A more globally accepted version was that Japanese militarists needed an incident to effect a planned Sino-Japanese war and when none was forthcoming, young militant officers fomented one in Mukden.

Mukden is now called Shenyang, previously, the second seat of the Qing Dynasty located north of the Great Wall where, for two centuries, they limited the overwhelming influence of the north central Mings and the southern Hans in the Manchurian plains.

Today, when one boards a taxi in the city, a recorded message in both Putonghua and English is heard: "Welcome to Shenyang. Passengers, please fasten your seat belts." This is well and good, the friendly reminder possibly installed during the Olympics of Beijing 2008 since Shenyang hosted also international football (soccer) games. But like many things in China, the promise is not accompanied by logistics. Where the original seat belts were, they are there no longer, and the driver hardly ever straps his either.

In 1996, China started talking about banning smoking in public places, like the rest of health conscious world. By March 2010, they will start implementing that in Shanghai, presumably, in deference to the international audience coming to the World Expo. They did the same during the Beijing Olympics in 2008, and it is quite nice to have smoke-free airports and train stations, though restrooms trash bins tend to be butt-filled.

China's superfast D-trains have a compliant clientele though lighting up occurs quickly once passengers hit the station platform. The slower K and T trains have less obedient passengers, and if they are not lighting up in between cabins where ashtrays may still be found, they light up in the restrooms. By policy, 2010 promises to be smoke-free in all the trains; that remain to be seen. But face will be kept; the policy will stay in place.

Customers at high end restaurants tend to comply with the "No Smoking" signs plastered against the walls, but most restaurants that cater to the local population, even the family-oriented ones, have all the requisite prohibition signs on display, but observance of the policy is the exception rather than the rule.

This is no surprise. A fourth of the world smokers are from China, with a 60 percent high on the country's male population compared to only 3 percent of the female. However, local governments not only promote the production and sale of cigarettes, some even own them. So there abides a paradox of a government office trying to discourage the use of tobacco, while another offers incentives for the use of the same. This discrepancy between glowing promise and dismal practice is not exclusive to China. To be sure, its practice of building walls to hide ancient *hutongs* scheduled for demolition met massive resistance from students and young people prior to the Beijing Olympics when the capital city tried to clean up the blighted but nevertheless quaint local dwellings.

But much earlier, when the Philippines hosted a World Bank meeting in the '70s, Imelda Marcos built billboards to fence out sights of slums in Metro Manila. We need not be too critical of this practice. After all, those of us who dabbled in community development can identify with the practice of providing images of what is intended to transpire to incite added motivation. Many an "on this site will rise …" type of signs are often built to spur ancillary development to a primary construction effort, spur the rapid circulation of investment in any given geography before the money that comes in exits out of the local financial system. The announcement of the second casino in Tinian, as prominently displayed at the airport, is an example of firing up the imagination before the first spade strikes the ground.

The rapid urbanization of Shenyang has all the markings of development on the cheap. High rise apartments and condos are on a rush to be built, and the 20 percent of the population benefiting from the world's fastest growing economy have invested heavily in these new dwellings, they are now uncertain whether the center will hold. Happily for them, the centralized economic planning of the nation will ensure that recessionary impact will be spread out across the population.

As the incident in Mukden continues to be object/subject of fact and fiction, the lifestyle of keeping face as a *yin-yang* dynamic continues to define China's existence. This is not mere Madison Ave. public relations; it is deeply embedded in the network of guarded social relationships used to order society as ancient as the teaching of Kong Fu Zi, better known to the west as Confucius, whose life, as if to make the point, is suddenly resuscitated past Mao's condemnation to be one of this year's premier movie attractions. Anyone familiar with the play and movie, *Farewell My Concubine,* and the traditional playing of female roles by male actors in the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean stages will understand how even today, Li Yu Gong lead male actors in dominating female roles on stage, of visual and vocal performances.

This brings us to marriage of fact and fiction in the historic Masseuse/Mukden incident of Saipan/September. Ooops, I guess not! OK. We'll stick to monitoring our compliance with smoking in public places.

Sen. Bayh's vote of no-confidence

By CHARLES LANE
(c) 2010, The Washington Post

The writer is a member of The Washington Post*'s editorial page staff.*

The stunning retirement of Indiana's Evan Bayh, D, from the Senate is essentially a loud and emphatic "take this job and shove it" to President Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. For months, Bayh has been screaming that the party needs to reorient toward a more popular, centrist agenda — one that emphasizes jobs and fiscal responsibility over health care and cap and trade. Neither the White House nor the Senate leadership has given him the response he wanted. Their bungling of what should have been a routine bipartisan jobs bill last week seems to have been the last straw.

I don't doubt that Bayh could have won re-election. For him, the question was: Even if I win, who needs six more years of dealing with these people, after which I might be 60 years old and trying to pick up the pieces of a damaged political party brand?

Quitting the Senate was a no-lose move for the presidentially ambitious Bayh, because he can crawl away from the political wreckage for a couple of years, plausibly alleging that he tried to steer the party in a different direction — and then be well positioned to mount a centrist primary challenge to Obama in 2012, depending on circumstances.

Bayh's vote of no-confidence in his own party looks like another Massachusetts-size political earthquake for the Democrats.

Excerpted from The Post's opinion blog.

Letters to the Editor

Harmony for sake of common good

Many people are happy with the results of the most historical election ever here in the CNMI. They have reasons to be. Congratulations to all, I am sure you can't wait for changes that will make things better here in the CNMI.

During the season, friends, relatives, families are separated by their ideas on how the people would reach their desired goals and objectives in making the life in the CNMI better. They debated disagreements, and at times, escalated to arguments that separated them during the spur of the moment. But the amazing part is of the fact they always come down and unified in providing harmony for the sake of their common good. This is a simple but valuable lesson that our elders had taught us.

Let us look at CNMI's society as family because we are indeed CNMI's siblings. We may not be blood related, but are the sibling that provides containment to the every day life that we have here. The Chamorros and Refaluwasch were the moving energy of the CNMI's family while extending it to other U.S. citizens and permanent residents. We believed in many good things that kept us united and harmonized between each other. We believed in the constitutions that protects our rights; and the laws of the land that provides us all with the fairness and equality. We also believed in politics because it is a way of life that provides for our common good. We may have a difference in ideology and the leaders we choose to lead us to the finish line for a better tomorrow. But it does not mean that the other guy on the side of aisle does not want to support the cause, but would want to work together to get to where we are headed.

We have realized that politics is not personal but ideologies working relationships. Our difference must be mend and we should unify for our common good. We must not allow our differences turn into grudges that will disrupt the efforts of our leaders and ourselves as well as we unite and whether our perfect storm that we are faced with.

Let the politics of yesterday be done and over. Let tomorrow take its course by creating a unified force as a member of the CNMI society family to tackle hard and complex issues facing us today. Let each and every family members hold hands and move towards the desired mission together under the leadership of honorable governor and lieutenant governor. Let us discouraged disruptive behaviors that are unnecessary and would only delay our achievement. Avoid searching for fault when there is none because of our difference. You and I know that innocent family members will suffer as results. Let us put aside the emotion and mean spirited reaction of this difference. Let us put our vision into perspective for a better CNMI and allow everyone to contribute and lend a helping hand to push each other to the finish line and not pull each other from it. Hafa Mohon? Sinaha? Pat ti sina'?

Alfred Pangelinan
San Vicente

Higher fines for irresponsible Internet shops

I'm a concerned citizen and a taxpayer and would like to request the concerned government agency to go out and investigate all Internet shops regarding minors viewing pornography.

On Feb. 16 at about 4:30pm to 5pm, my husband and I were at an Internet shop in San Jose to download music to our new cell phone; and noticed a young-looking male individual viewing pornography in one of the computers. I then notified the operator of the establishment, but she was not aware of what's happening. I got offended and intimated of what had occurred at that time, and decided to leave the area.

I have a grandson at home and I'm afraid that he might go there and encounter the same thing. That's why I'm requesting that the authorities immediately stop this problem before it becomes worst.

I strongly recommend our new and good elected officials to come up with higher fines against Internet shops that allow minors to view pornography online.

Nelyda Serrano
KoblerVille, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84	▼75
Palau	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

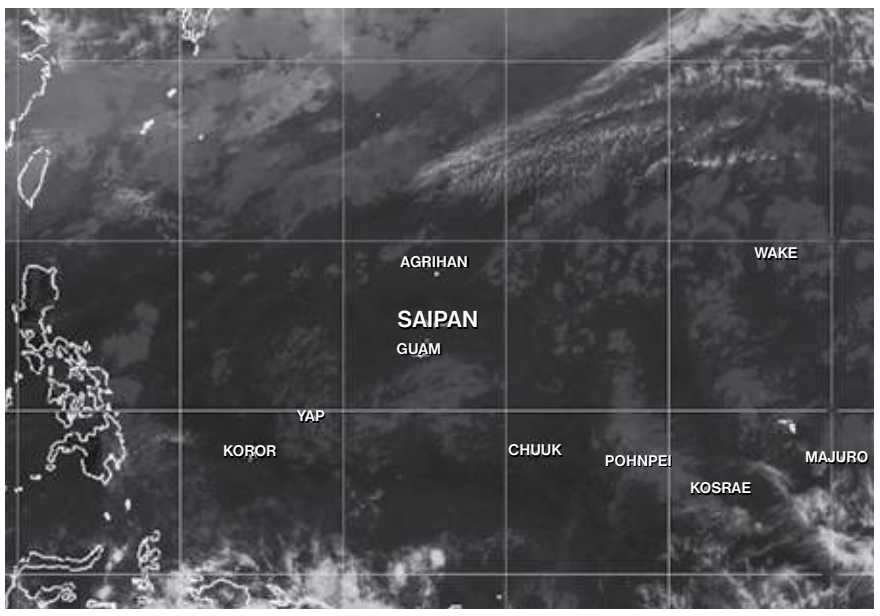
Auckland	Rain	▲75	▼61
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲39	▼23
Hong Kong	Rain	▲55	▼54
Honolulu	Dreary	▲72	▼64
London	Showers	▲43	▼36
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼52
Manila	Sunny	▲91	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼56
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼49
New York	Partly Sunny	▲37	▼27
Osaka	Dreary	▲41	▼29
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼37
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲42	▼26
Rome	Rain	▲61	▼59
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼32
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼49
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲30	▼12
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲53	▼34
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲41	▼27

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
10:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
10:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N150E to 21N141E then continues as a shear line to beyond 20N130E. Low cloudiness and scattered light showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance just south of Guam is producing scattered light showers within 100 miles either side of a line from 8N137E across Yap to 12N143E. A surface trough extends from 11N158E to just east of Pohnpei at 7N159E to southeast of Kosrae at 3N165E. Scattered showers associated with the trough are occurring within 75 miles of the trough axis. Low-level convergence near the equator south of Guam is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 2N from 144E to 147.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:50 AM	9:34 PM
Friday	9:28 AM	10:25 PM
Saturday	10:09 AM	11:18 PM
Sunday	10:55 AM	
Monday	11:46 AM	12:15 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,687.100
Up 96.300
(+2.10%)

HONG KONG
20,627.72
Up 359.03
(+1.77%)

JAKARTA
2,575.6179
Up 17.113
(+0.67%)

TOKYO
10,292.37
Up 258.12
(+2.57%)

K. LUMPUR
1,263.94
Up 10.55
(-0.84%)

MANILA
3,018.67
Up 50.96
(+1.72%)

SINGAPORE
2,789.13
Up 30.23
(+1.10%)

SEOUL
1,626.73
Up 25.68
(+1.60%)

BANGKOK
696.93
Up 4.20
(+0.61%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
10,268.81
+169.67

NASDAQ
2,214.19
+30.66

S&P
1,094.87
+19.36

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1236
British Pound	0.6376
Canadian Dollar	1.0494
Chinese Renmbi	6.8334
Euro	0.7338
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7705
Indian Rupee	46.302
Indonesian Rupiah	9350
Japanese Yen	89.99
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4229
New Zealand Dollar	1.4329
Philippine Peso	46.28
Singapore Dollar	1.4109
South Korean Won	1156
Swiss Franc	1.0764
Taiwan Dollar	32.115
Thailand Baht	33.2

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

US demands Toyota turn over recall documents

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government ordered Toyota to turn over documents related to its massive recalls Tuesday, pressing to see how long the automaker knew of safety defects before taking action. Toyota, concerned about unsold cars, said it would temporarily idle some production in three states.

The Transportation Department is demanding that Toyota reveal when and how it learned of problems with sticking accelerators and with floor mats trapping gas pedals, and the company must respond within 30 to 60 days or face fines. Those defects and problems with brakes on new Prius hybrids have now led to the recall of 8.5 million vehicles.

The intensifying investigation and the production halts at Toyota's assembly plants are fresh signs of the ripple effect the recalls are having on the world's No. 1 automaker—even as car-owners are streaming to dealers for fixes. Toyota faces separate probes by the Obama administration and Congress as it struggles to maintain its loyal customer base and its reputation for safety and quality.

Toyota said it was halting production temporarily in San Antonio, Texas, and Georgetown, Ky., to address concerns that too many unsold vehicles may be building up at dealerships because of the large recalls.

Company spokesman Mike Goss said the Texas plant, which builds the Tundra pickup truck, would take production breaks for the weeks of March 15 and April 12. The Kentucky plant, which makes the Camry, Avalon and Venza vehicles, plans to take a non-production day on Feb. 26 and may not build vehicles on three more days in March and April.

AP

In this Nov. 10, 2008 file photo, a production team member works on the under carriage of a Toyota Solara convertible on the assembly line at the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky plant in Georgetown, Ky.

Stocks gain on earnings, deals and hope for Greece

NEW YORK (AP)—Signs that the economy is indeed strengthening gave investors a surge of optimism and sent stocks sharply higher.

The Dow Jones industrials soared almost 170 points Tuesday on upbeat earnings reports and corporate deals. Investors who have been anxious in recent weeks about economic problems overseas were able to put aside their concerns for the time being. They focused instead on the domestic economy.

The dollar fell as investors felt less of a need to stash their money in safer investments. Oil, gold and other commodities joined stocks as the beneficiaries of the market's renewed confidence. And the stocks of energy and materials producers were among the day's big winners.

European markets also rose following new plans by European Union leaders to push Greece to get its budget under control. European officials gave Greece one month to prove it can cut its deficits. Debt problems in European countries including Greece, Portugal and Spain have been a major factor behind weakness in global stock markets in recent weeks.

A strong earnings report from Barclays, a major European bank, also gave the market some relief. European banks have been slower to recover than their U.S. counterparts, and investors saw the bounceback at Barclays as an encouraging sign.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mortgage delinquencies tick higher in 4th-qtr 2009

NEW YORK (AP)—The percentage of homeowners late with mortgage payments hit another record during the last three months of 2009, and the pace at which they fell behind took a turn for the worse, a new report says. For the fourth quarter, 6.89 percent of mortgage payments were 60 or more days past due, according to credit reporting agency TransUnion. That's up from 4.58 percent in the final three months of 2008. The previous record delinquency rate was 6.25 percent in the third quarter of 2009. The latest report marked the 12th consecutive quarter—equal to three full years—that delinquency rates have risen from the previous year.

Berkshire reveals several changes in investments

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Billionaire Warren Buffett's company reduced its holdings in Johnson & Johnson, Proctor & Gamble, ConocoPhillips and Exxon Mobil Corp. during the last three months of 2009, according to documents filed Tuesday. Berkshire Hathaway Inc. disclosed those moves and several other changes to its roughly $58 billion U.S. stock portfolio in documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The filing offers a snapshot of the Omaha-based company's holdings as of Dec. 31. Berkshire added to its stakes in Iron Mountain Inc., Becton Dickinson & Co., Republic Services Inc. and Wells Fargo.

Schering-Plough purchase hikes Merck sales, profit

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Drugmaker Merck & Co. on Tuesday posted huge jumps in revenue and profit for the fourth quarter, mainly due to its purchase of Schering-Plough Corp., its longtime partner on lucrative cholesterol drugs. It disclosed a little detail on its planned restructuring, but gave no forecast for 2010 profit or research spending. Merck reported net income of $6.49 billion, or $2.35 per share, up from $1.64 billion, or 78 cents a share, a year earlier. The big gain was due to $7.8 billion worth of mostly merger-related accounting items, plus a few billion dollars in sales from Schering-Plough products. Merck said the first phase of its restructuring program is expected to bring annual savings of $2.6 billion to $3 billion in 2012—the bulk of its previously announced plan to save $3.5 billion a year by 2012, a key merger goal.

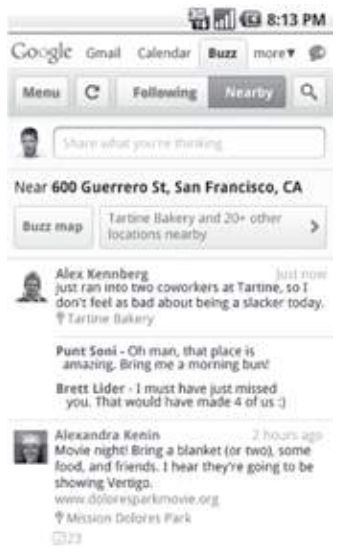
Privacy group files FTC complaint on Google Buzz

WASHINGTON (AP)—A privacy watchdog group complained to federal regulators on Tuesday about Google's new Buzz social networking service, saying it violates federal consumer protection law.

The Electronic Privacy Information Center filed its complaint with the Federal Trade Commission just days after Google Inc. altered the service to address mounting privacy concerns.

Since launching Google Buzz as part of Gmail a week ago, the search company has come under fire for automatically creating public circles of friends for users based on their most frequent Gmail contacts. Over the weekend, Google altered the service to merely suggest contacts for its users' social networks.

Despite the changes, EPIC argues that privacy violations remain because Google automatically signs up Gmail users for Buzz, rather than waiting for them to do so themselves, or "opt in" for the service. EPIC wants the FTC to require Google to make Buzz a "fully opt-in" service. It also wants the company barred from using Gmail address book contacts to compile social networking lists.


8:13 PM
Google
Gmail
Calendar
Buzz
more
Menu
Following
Nearby
Near 600 Guerrero St, San Francisco, CA
Buzz map
Tartine Bakery and 20+ other locations nearby
Alex Kennberg
just ran into two coworkers at Tartine, so I don't feel as bad about being a slacker today.
Tartine Bakery
Punt Soni - Oh man, that place is amazing. Bring me a morning bun!
Brett Lider - I must have just missed you. That would have made 4 of us :)
Alexandra Kenin
2 hours ago
Movie night! Bring a blanket (or two), some food, and friends. I hear they're going to be showing Vertigo.
www.dolorespkmovie.org
Mission Dolores Park

AP

In this screen shot provided by Google Inc., the company's new "Google Buzz" feature for Gmail mobile users is shown.

"This is a significant breach of consumers' expectations of privacy," EPIC Executive Director Marc Rotenberg said in a statement. "Google should not be allowed to push users' personal information into a social network they never requested."

But Google insists that it gives users control because, even though it adds a "Buzz" link to all Gmail accounts, users must click on the link and agree to activate the service. Google also gives users the option to disable Buzz.

In response to the EPIC complaint, Google said it has already made some changes to Buzz based on user feedback and has "more improvements in the works."

"We look forward to hearing more suggestions and will continue to improve the Buzz experience with user transparency and control top of mind," the company said.

Biden says stimulus good for Michigan, rest of US

UNIVERSITY CENTER, Mich. (AP)—The year-old federal Recovery Act that has pumped billions in stimulus dollars into economically devastated states such as Michigan is working well, Vice President Joe Biden said Tuesday, disputing Republican claims that it has failed.

The Democratic vice president was in the Saginaw area, dispatched by President Barack Obama to defend the $787 billion stimulus plan on its first anniversary.

"It's gonna take us a while to get us out of this ditch, but it's working. It's working," Biden said after touring a job training program at Delta College that he said benefitted from stimulus cash.

He later ate lunch at a Saginaw restaurant and toured the Thomas Township headquarters of Hemlock Semiconductor Group, which makes materials used in solar power technology. Both businesses also benefitted greatly from stimulus cash, he said.

"I absolutely refuse to accept the notion that the United States of America is not going to lead the world economically throughout the 21st Century," he said during remarks to supporters on the Delta campus.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Jackson calls Ore. police shooting 'execution'

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The Rev. Jesse Jackson is calling the fatal police shooting of an unarmed black man in Portland, Ore., an execution. Jackson, at a news conference in Portland on Tuesday, criticized city plans to allow the officer to return to regular duty this week. A grand jury last week declined to take action against Officer Ronald Frashour in the Jan. 29 shooting of Aaron Campbell but sent a letter to the prosecutor saying "something went terribly, terribly wrong." Campbell was shot in the back after emerging from an apartment with his hands over his head. He was reportedly distraught over the death of his brother earlier in the day.

Climber's body recovered in St. Helens crater

SEATTLE (AP)—The body of a veteran climber who fell 1,500 feet into the crater atop Mount St. Helens was recovered Tuesday after he spent more than a day in the snow, authorities said. Clouds and wind had hampered efforts to reach Joseph Bohlig, 52, who was posing for a picture Monday on the rim of the dormant crater when a snow overhang gave way and he fell into the volcano. "We're sorry that he's gone, that he didn't make it," said Richard Bohlig, the climber's 84-year-old father. "He was doing something he enjoyed very much. That's all I can say." Family members had gathered in Bohlig's hometown of Kelso, Wash., to await word on the search.

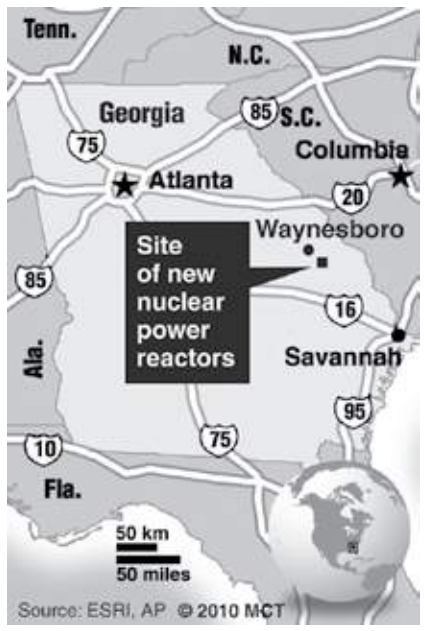
Prosecutors must show Peterson's wife was killed

JOLIET, Ill. (AP)—The crime scene technician didn't think twice about the bottle of cleaning fluid near the bathroom where the body of Drew Peterson's ex-wife lay slumped in her bathtub—or whether it might have been used to wipe away evidence of a crime. Six years later, as Peterson prepares to stand trial for murder in Kathleen Savio's death, the bottle underscores the huge challenge facing prosecutors: Before they ask jurors to convict Peterson of murder, they first must prove a homicide occurred in the first place. Police were so sure Savio drowned accidentally that they didn't look twice at the cleaning fluid, and collected no forensic evidence. Even the coroner who conducted the autopsy in 2004 ruled the death an accident. In most murder trials, the evidence of a slaying is as obvious as a bullet hole or a stab wound, and the only question is "whodunnit?" But in Peterson's case, nothing is obvious.

Obama's latest bipartisan outreach: nuclear energy

AP

President Barack Obama delivers remarks on energy jobs during his visit to International Brotherhood of Electricians (IBEW) Local 26 headquarters in Lanham, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010.



WASHINGTON (AP)—Prodding Republicans, President Barack Obama on Tuesday championed nuclear energy expansion as the latest way that feuding parties can move beyond the "broken politics" of Washington that have imperiled his agenda and soured voters.

His call came as he dispatched Vice President Joe Biden and Cabinet secretaries nationwide to tout the economic stimulus plan against Republican criticism, reflecting that until bipartisanship comes, the White House will remain aggressive in selling its own case to the public.

Since a January special election in Massachusetts, when Democrats lost the 60th vote they need in the Senate to overcome Republican delays on legislation, Obama has recalibrated his strategy to advance his agenda. His plan includes reaching out to Republicans on tax breaks, on health care and on energy, but also putting them on the spot for any refusal to help.

With a host of new goals—rebuilding public confidence, keeping Obama in charge of the debate, halting deep Democratic losses in this year's elections—the White House is now infusing its communications strategy with more of the discipline that it famously used in Obama's presidential campaign.

The president cast his push for more nuclear energy as both economically vital and politically attractive to the opposition party. He announced more than $8 billion in loan guarantees to build the first nuclear power plant in nearly three decades, part of a nuclear initiative that could draw essential backing from Republicans.

At the same time, he asked Republicans to get behind a comprehensive energy bill that expands clean energy sources, assigns a cost to the polluting emissions of fossil fuels so that nuclear fuel becomes more affordable, and gives both parties a rare chance to claim common ground.

Bayh the latest exit as moderates leave Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—The moderate middle is disappearing from Congress. Evan Bayh is just the latest senator to forgo a re-election bid, joining a growing line of pragmatic, find-a-way politicians who are abandoning Washington. Still here: evermore-polarized colleagues locked in gridlock—exactly what voters say they don't like about politics in the nation's capital.

Politics runs in cycles, and the Senate has seen flights of self-styled centrists before. In 1996, for example, 10 senators who could boast strong bipartisan credentials chose to retire rather than re-up. Many of them complained how lonely a place the middle ground of American politics had become. But to some, the center has become even lonelier.

Bayh

More than their feelings are at stake. The moderates in the middle are the ones who tend to make deals and sometimes resolve standoffs blocking decisions that affect programs—not to mention taxes—that touch virtually every American.

Former Sen. William Cohen says what's happening now is a continuation of the "hollowing out of the middle." An article he wrote when he left his Senate seat in 1996, lamenting partisan gridlock, could just as easily be reprinted now, subbing his name for that of Bayh, the Indiana Democrat who announced on Monday he won't run again.

New clip shows JFK arriving in Dallas in 1963

DALLAS (AP)—New color video footage showing President John F. Kennedy's arrival in Dallas the day he was assassinated is the best home movie ever made of the event, the curator of the Dallas JFK museum said.

The short clip, shot on 8mm film by a 15-year-old student, provides a rare, high-quality color close-up of John and Jackie Kennedy as they arrived in Dallas. The Sixth Floor Museum put the film on display for public viewing on Presidents Day.

Kennedy was killed Nov. 22, 1963, as his motorcade made its way through downtown Dallas. The footage shot earlier that day by William Ward Warren mainly shows Air Force One and Air Force Two arriving, and briefly features the Kennedys making their way through the crowd at the airport.

"Viewing this footage makes you feel as though you're standing next to Warren as he's filming it on that very day," museum curator Gary Mack said Monday. The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza chronicles Kennedy's life and death and is located in the old book depository building from where Lee Harvey Oswald fired at the president's motorcade.

AP

This frame grab from a Nov. 22, 1963, film provided by The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, shows President John F. Kennedy on his arrival in Dallas on the day he was assassinated.

Warren, now the 61-year-old owner of a freight brokerage business, was at the airport because Dallas students were given the day off for Kennedy's visit.

Ala. prof's story begins with brother's 1986 death

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—When a young woman in Massachusetts killed her brother with a shotgun blast in 1986, no ballistics tests were done, and authorities waited more than a week to question family members.

The death was ultimately ruled an accident. Now, a quarter-century later, Amy Bishop is accused in another shooting—an attack that killed three fellow biology professors at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

In the days since Friday's shooting, revelations about Amy Bishop's past have raised questions about whether much of the violence could have been prevented.

The story starts when police were called to the Braintree, Mass., home Bishop shared with her parents. Authorities found her 18-year-old brother, Seth, dead of a shotgun wound to the chest.

Bishop's father later told police he and his daughter had a disagreement and she went to her room. She said she had wanted to learn to load a shotgun her parents had bought after a recent break-in.

Bishop said she accidentally fired the gun in her bedroom as she tried to unload it, then went downstairs to ask her brother to help, according to a police report.

She said the gun went off again as Seth, a Northeastern University freshman and a virtuoso violinist, walked across the kitchen.

She told police she thought she had ruined the kitchen, but did not realize she had hit her brother. She said she ran away and thought she dropped the gun, which went off a third time. She did not remember anything else until she was taken to a police station.

Asia

Sri Lanka's opposition appeals defeat in court

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's jailed and defeated opposition presidential candidate appealed to the country's highest court Tuesday to overturn the results of last month's election, a lawmaker said.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa secured a wide victory over his former army chief and main rival Sarath Fonseka in the Jan. 26 election, according to official results. But the opposition claims the poll was marred by widespread fraud and has rejected the result.

Lawyers for Fonseka—who was arrested last week after the government said he was planning a coup—have asked the Supreme Court to annul the results of the vote, said Tissa Attanayake, an opposition lawmaker. The appeal cites alleged government involvement in vote-rigging, use of state resources on behalf of Rajapaksa and other violations.

It was not clear when the court would consider the case.

The campaign between Rajapaksa and Fonseka was a bitter one. The two were allies when they worked together to defeat the Tamil Tiger rebels last year, but fell out after the war.

Fonseka denies plotting to stage a coup, and the opposition says he was arrested because he dared to challenge Rajapaksa.

The dispute has spilled over onto the streets and even into the Buddhist temples of the island nation off the southern coast of India. For the Sinhalese Buddhist clergy, both Rajapaksa and Fonseka are considered heroes for defeating the Tigers and ushering in a period of peace.

The country's top Buddhist monks have urged Rajapaksa to release Fonseka immediately.

On Tuesday, thousands of opposition supporters paraded in Colombo demanding Fonseka's freedom and accusing the government of undermining democracy.

Taliban leader's arrest a new blow to insurgents

AP

U.S. Marines from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment fire on Taliban positions in the town of Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province on Monday Feb. 15, 2010.

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The capture of the Afghan Taliban's No. 2 commander by a joint CIA and Pakistani team dealt a fresh blow to insurgents under heavy U.S. attack and raised hopes that Pakistani security forces are ready to deny Afghan militant leaders a safe haven.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar's arrest in the Pakistani port city of Karachi may also push other insurgent leaders thought to be sheltering on this side of the border toward talks with the Afghan government—a development increasingly seen as key to ending the eight-year war.

Baradar, in his late 40s, was the second in command behind Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar and was said to be in charge of the day-to-day running of the organization's leadership council, which is believed based in Pakistan. He was a founding member of the Taliban and is the most important figure of the hardline Islamist movement to be arrested in the war.

Baradar, who also functioned as the link between Mullah Omar and field commanders, has been in detention for more than 10 days and was talking to interrogators, two Pakistani intelligence officials said Tuesday. One said several other suspects were also captured in the raid. He said Baradar had provided "useful information" to them and that Pakistan had shared it with their U.S. counterparts. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information.

The White House declined to confirm Baradar's capture. Spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters the fight against extremists involves sensitive intelligence matters and he believes it's best to collect that information without talking about it.

President Barack Obama's administration has vowed to kill or seize Taliban and al-Qaida leaders in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The arrest comes as relentless CIA missile strikes against militant targets in the border tribal region have killed several commanders.

Obama has ordered 30,000 extra troops to southern Afghanistan. On Saturday, thousands of them began a major attack on the town of Marjah in the southern province of Helmand, one of the regions that Baradar is believed to control.

Former members of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and security experts said the arrest would hurt the Taliban but was far from a decisive blow. They said Baradar would likely be quickly replaced and that local commanders had a lot of autonomy from the leaders based in Pakistan.

Nevertheless, the capture is likely to cause short-term disruption, since Baradar was the day-to-day commander of the Taliban and his successor would not have the same prestige.

"It's a great tactical success that the coalition forces should be pleased with, but by no means is it the beginning of the end," said Will Hartley, an analyst at Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center in London. "This will have a noted effect on the short-term ability of the Taliban to operate the way it was. However, it has proved itself a resilient organization."

US Marines link up in Afghan Taliban stronghold

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)—Marines moving by land from the north linked up Tuesday with U.S. units that have faced nearly constant Taliban attack in the four days since they were dropped by helicopter into this insurgent stronghold in southern Afghanistan.

Also Tuesday, U.S. artillery fired non-lethal smoke rounds to disperse Taliban fighters in Marjah—the first time cannons have been used in the fight to drive the militants from their logistical and opium poppy-smuggling base. Commanders refused a Marine request to fire deadly high-explosive rounds because the unit on the ground could not be sure civilians weren't at risk.

The linkup between the two Marine rifle companies and their Afghan army partners will enable the U.S. to expand its control in Marjah, situated in Helmand province 380 miles (610 kilometers) southwest of Kabul.

Lima Company of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines moved through fields of hidden bombs and bobby traps and braved heavy sniper fire to join up with the same battalion's Kilo Company, which was airdropped into the town in the first hours of the operation Saturday.

Sri Lanka's opposition appeals defeat in court

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's jailed and defeated opposition presidential candidate appealed to the country's highest court Tuesday to overturn the results of last month's election, a lawmaker said.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa secured a wide victory over his former army chief and main rival Sarath Fonseka in the Jan. 26 election, according to official results. But the opposition claims the poll was marred by widespread fraud and has rejected the result.

Lawyers for Fonseka—who was arrested last week after the government said he was planning a coup—have asked the Supreme Court to annul the results of the vote, said Tissa Attanayake, an opposition lawmaker. The appeal cites alleged government involvement in vote-rigging, use of state resources on behalf of Rajapaksa and other violations.

It was not clear when the court would consider the case.

The campaign between Rajapaksa and Fonseka was a bitter one. The two were allies when they worked together to defeat the Tamil Tiger rebels last year, but fell out after the war.

Fonseka denies plotting to stage a coup, and the opposition says he was arrested because he dared to challenge Rajapaksa.

The dispute has spilled over onto the streets and even into the Buddhist temples of the island nation off the southern coast of India. For the Sinhalese Buddhist clergy, both Rajapaksa and Fonseka are considered heroes for defeating the Tigers and ushering in a period of peace.

The country's top Buddhist monks have urged Rajapaksa to release Fonseka immediately.

On Tuesday, thousands of opposition supporters paraded in Colombo demanding Fonseka's freedom and accusing the government of undermining democracy.

Tuesday's move by Fonseka's lawyers comes as the country gears up for general elections scheduled for April 8 in which the ruling coalition hopes to further strengthen its grip on power.

There have been widespread accusations of harassment in the weeks after the presidential poll, with international human rights and media groups saying the government has put particular focus on journalists.

ASIAN BRIEFS

FM: Obama visit boosts US-Indonesian ties

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—President Barack Obama's visit to Indonesia next month will give new momentum to already positive relations between Washington and Jakarta, the foreign minister said Tuesday. Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said Indonesia welcomed Washington's more consultative approach with the Southeast Asian region since Obama took office a year ago. "The trajectory was already positive" under former President George W. Bush, Natalegawa said of U.S.-Indonesian relations. But he said Obama, who lived in Indonesia as a boy, has given ties a fresh momentum.

Toxic fumes leak in Philippine port kills 3

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A chemical leak on a barge undergoing repairs killed three workers and prompted authorities to close schools and move to safety nearly 2,000 residents at a northern Philippine port, officials said Wednesday. The three men suffocated Tuesday while repainting and fixing the docked barge in Batangas port south of Manila, said regional police director Rolando Anonuevo. Three other workers were hospitalized while authorities temporarily moved about 2,000 people living nearby to a local school. The gas was probably sodium hydrosulfide, a toxic chemical used in the production of paper and dyes and to process ores, said Philippine National Red Cross Chairman Richard Gordon.

US missile kills 3 in northwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A suspected U.S. drone fired two missiles at a home in northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing at least three people and wounding some others, intelligence officials said. The attack happened in Tabbi Tool Khel village of North Waziristan, said the two officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. The CIA has targeted homes, vehicles and militant hideouts in Pakistan's volatile North and South Waziristan tribal regions since December when a bomber killed seven of its employees in Afghanistan.

World

French leader's Haiti visit revives bitter legacy

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Nicolas Sarkozy's visit Wednesday, the first ever by a French president, is reviving bitter memories of the crippling costs of Haiti's 1804 independence.

A third of the population was killed in an uprising against exceptionally brutal slavery, an international embargo was imposed to prevent slave revolts elsewhere and 90 million pieces of gold were demanded by Paris from the world's first black republic.

The debt hobbled Haiti, it seemed for life.

A country plagued by natural and unnatural calamities of Biblical proportions was desperately poor and mismanaged even before a magnitude-7 earthquake smashed up Port-au-Prince, killing more than 200,000 people and leaving more than a million homeless.

Haitian politicians this week diplomatically skirted the question of reparations—a demand put to Paris by ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004. That suggests Sarkozy's four-hour visit could herald a new era.

Some are welcoming France's new interest in what was its richest colony as a counterbalance to the United States, which occupied Haiti from 1915 to 1934 and has sent troops three times in the past 16 years.

French officials say Sarkozy will announce details of "a French plan for the reconstruction of Haiti"—if Haitian officials agree. It differs little from proposals from Haitian, U.S. and U.N. officials to decentralize power away from the devastated capital and boost agriculture and tourism.

The trip brings Sarkozy to an island where, French officials acknowledge, fascination with things French duels with strong, lingering resentments.

One official close to the French presidency, briefing reporters in Paris on condition of anonymity, hinted that France is not deaf to calls for reparations, calling Sarkozy's visit "an occasion to show that France is mobilizing to give Haitians control of their destiny and pay past debts."

For Millien Romage, a legislator for Aristide's party when reparations were demanded, "This is not a time to be making loud demands. We don't want to fight. But perhaps the French could recognize their debt by helping us to get out of poverty. They can help build roads, houses, schools."

Sarkozy himself has said the catastrophe, following so many others, offers "a chance to get Haiti once and for all out of the curse it seems to have been stuck with for such a long time."

Some Haitians would say they were cursed by their French colonizers.

Study: Quake damage twice value of Haiti economy

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Damage from Haiti's catastrophic Jan. 12 earthquake may be twice the value of the country's annual economy, Latin America's main development bank said Tuesday.

A report by three Inter-American Development Bank economists found last month's earthquake to be more devastating than the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was for Indonesia, and five times deadlier than the 1972 earthquake that leveled Nicaragua's capital.

"It is the most destructive (natural disaster) a country has ever experienced when measured in terms of the number of people killed as a share of the country's population," the report says—killing one in every 50 Haitians.

Economists Eduardo Cavallo, Andrew Powell and Oscar Becerra estimated the magnitude-7 quake wrought damage worth between $8.1 billion and $13.9 billion.

Haiti produced only $7 billion worth of goods and services in 2008, according to the World Bank.

"This is just an assessment of damage; it gives no indication of the amount of money to get the country back as if nothing had happened," Cavallo told The Associated Press by phone.

He said an ongoing assessment will be needed to determine the total amount Haiti needs to rebuild.

The authors used statistical models based on data compiled from about 2,000 natural disasters since 1970—taking into account estimated death tolls, levels of economic development and other factors—and they caution the study is preliminary.

They came up with a wide range of potential estimates, including one as low as $4.1 billion.

But because there is so little precedent for a disaster this size—killing more than 200,000 people and striking directly at the heart of the country's political and economic center—Cavallo said they believe the final figure will be closer to their highest estimates.

AP

The statue of Haitian independence hero, Toussaint Louverture stands in the back as a woman cooks food at a makeshift camp for homeless earthquake survivors at the Champ de Mars plaza in Port-au-Prince, Tuesday Feb.

Cluster bomb ban to enter into force on Aug. 1

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced Tuesday that the international convention banning cluster bombs has received the 30 ratifications required and will enter into force on Aug. 1.

Cluster bomblets are packed by the hundreds into artillery shells, bombs or missiles, which scatter them over vast areas. Some fail to explode immediately and can lie dormant for years until they are disturbed, often by children attracted by their small size and bright colors. A bomblet can kill or maim someone within 10 to 50 yards (meters).

The convention prohibits all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions, sets strict deadlines for the destruction of stockpiles and clearance of contaminated land, and obliges states to support survivors and affected communities.

Ban said the United Nations received the 30th instrument of ratification for the Convention on Cluster Munitions on Tuesday, triggering its entry into force on Aug. 1, according to a statement from the U.N. spokesman.

The U.N. chief said the convention's impending entry into force just two years after its adoption demonstrates "the world's collective revulsion at the impact of these terrible weapons" which are "unreliable and inaccurate" and kill and maim civilians long after conflicts end, the statement said.

3 world powers criticize Iranian enrichment

VIENNA (AP)—Russia, the U.S. and France have urged Iran to stop enriching uranium to higher levels and suggested the project reinforces suspicions that Tehran is seeking to make nuclear weapons. The joint statement, made public Tuesday, reflects unified Russian and Western opposition to Iran's increased enrichment.

Shrugging off international concerns, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced the country was moving ahead to expand its enrichment capacities by installing more advanced machinery at its main enrichment facility.

Ahmadinejad told reporters in Tehran Tuesday the new centrifuges are not yet operational but are five times more efficient than the model now in use at its underground Natanz enrichment plant.

Officials at the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency said they had no comment. The latest IAEA report on Iran in November said that as of early October no advanced centrifuges had been installed at the plant, although some were being tested in a separate area of the facility.

Because enrichment can produce both nuclear weapons as well as reactor fuel, Iran is under three sets of U.N. Security Council sanctions for refusing to stop its program. Its determination to expand such activities had been criticized worldwide even before an announcement earlier this month that Tehran would enrich to a higher level.

The confidential letter critical of the higher-enrichment plan was shared Tuesday with The Associated Press. Dated Feb. 12, it was addressed to IAEA chief Yukiya Amano and signed by senior U.S., Russian and French envoys.

Moscow in the past has often put the brakes on Western attempts to penalize Tehran for defying U.N. Security Council demands that it freeze its enrichment program, which can produce both nuclear fuel and the fissile core of warheads. But while Russia has recently signaled more support for new U.N. sanctions, China—a veto-wielding member of the U.N. Security Council that depends on Iran for much of its energy needs—remains opposed.

The letter questioned the rationale of Tehran's assertion that it had started the higher enrichment project to provide fuel to a research reactor providing medical isotopes for cancer patients.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ex-adviser to detained Americans charged in US

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—The fugitive former legal adviser to a group of Americans detained in Haiti on kidnapping charges said Tuesday he has yet another reason to stay in hiding: He's been indicted in the U.S. in an immigrant smuggling case. Jorge Puello, who surged into the spotlight by providing food, medicine and legal assistance to the 10 Americans jailed in Haiti, was already being pursued by law enforcement authorities in the Dominican Republic on an Interpol warrant out of El Salvador, where police say he led a ring that lured young women and girls into prostitution. He also had an outstanding warrant for a U.S. parole violation. Puello—who says he is innocent of all the accusations against him—acknowledged in a phone interview with The Associated Press that he is also named in a 2003 federal indictment out of Vermont that accuses him of smuggling illegal immigrants from Canada into the United States.

Dubai wanted list for Hamas slaying faces snags

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A spy novel-worthy police narrative about the slaying of a Hamas commander brought uneasy questions for Dubai authorities Tuesday as their account of a crack hit squad from Europe ran into serious challenges from Britain, Ireland and Germany. At least four people who live in Israel share names with suspects identified by Dubai police investigating the assassination of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh. Three of the four said they were not the people whose photos were made public by Dubai; a daughter of the fourth said the allegations were a mistake. Even so, the purported link to Israel was likely to encourage Hamas and others to press their claims that the Mossad secret service masterminded the slaying.

Pope tells Irish bishops to show courage

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI told Irish bishops at a special summit meeting Tuesday to be courageous in confronting the pedophile priest scandal that has rocked that Catholic nation's church, but took no action on victims' demands the Vatican take some responsibility. Specifically, bishops said the pope didn't rule on whether to accept the resignations offered by several bishops for their role in decades of concealment or push for resignations from those resisting calls to step down. The two-day, closed-door meeting bringing together the pope, top Vatican officials and 24 Irish bishops was called to restore the trust of Irish Catholics shaken by revelations of decades of clergy sex abuse and cover-up.

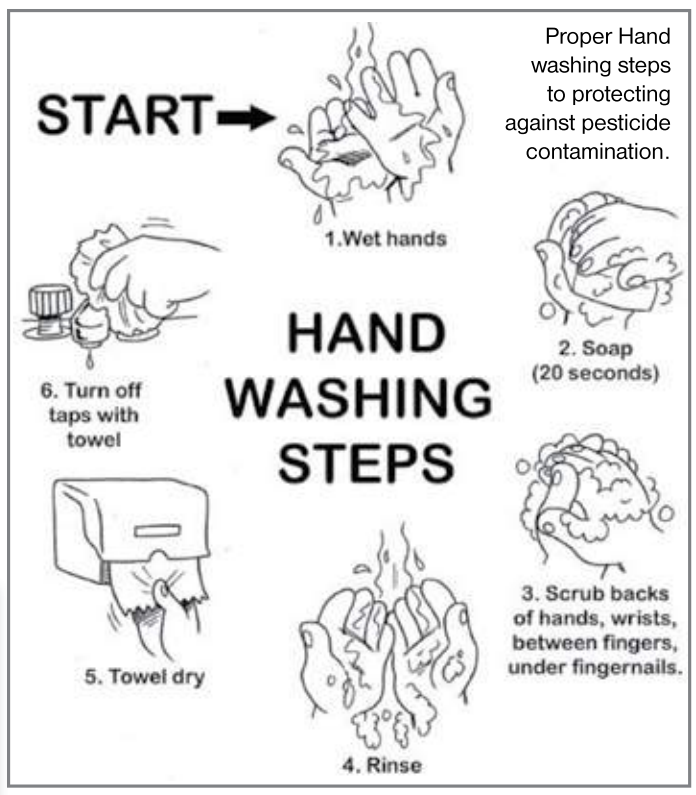
Environment

Safeguarding your family against pesticides

Last of a three-part series

Fruits and vegetables are good for us—they keep us healthy! We should eat lots every day.

Farmers use pesticides to help fruits and vegetables grow. Pesticides help plants grow, but they are poisonous for people—they make us very sick if we eat them. This is why it is very important that we wash fruits and vegetables in warm water to clean off the pesticides and make them safe to eat.


START
Proper Hand washing steps to protecting against pesticide contamination.
1.Wet hands
2. Soap (20 seconds)
3. Scrub backs of hands, wrists, between fingers, under fingernails.
4. Rinse
5. Towel dry
6. Turn off taps with towel
HAND WASHING STEPS

Safe handling

At home, gardeners also use pesticides to help their flowers and plants grow. Before purchasing a pesticide, be sure one is needed. Look at the damage to see if there are enough pests to make it worth your time and money to apply chemical control.

Usage - If you decide to use a pesticide, select the proper chemical for the job. Read and understand all labels for every pesticide you buy and use. Do not rely on your memory. It is always best to re-read labels before using pesticides. Wear clean, dry clothing that covers the body. Never use cotton or leather gloves.

Transporting -When transporting pesticides, ensure the containers do not shift, roll or bounce around in your truck or car.

Storage - Store pesticides in a locked, cool, dry place that is out of direct sunlight. Do not store near food, feed, seed or animals. Store all pesticides in their original containers with the labels intact.

Disposal - Dispose of small empty pesticide containers or unwanted pesticides at the DPW-Refuse Transfer Station in Puerto Rico, Saipan or other public trash dump directly.

Spills - Clean up spills immediately. Decontaminate tools used to clean up the spill. The clean up and contaminated materials should be disposed of as directed by the label or at the public trash dump. Use protective equipment as directed by the label. In the case of large spills, contact the Pesticide program at DEQ.

Symptoms of pesticide poisoning

People exposed to pesticides may experience a number of different symptoms. Even with only mild symptoms, a person can feel uncomfortable. Eyes can water, get red, and itchy. Skin can get red bumps and feel itchy. Mild symptoms include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Weakness, fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting
- Excessive sweating
- Blurry vision
- Chest pain, difficulty breathing
- Watery eyes or mouth, and runny nose
- Muscle pain, cramping

Pesticide law

Pesticides are regulated by the CNMI Environmental Protection Act (Public Law 3-23) and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. Enforcement of both is the responsibility of the Division of Environmental Quality.

These laws set stringent rules governing the use of pesticides by:

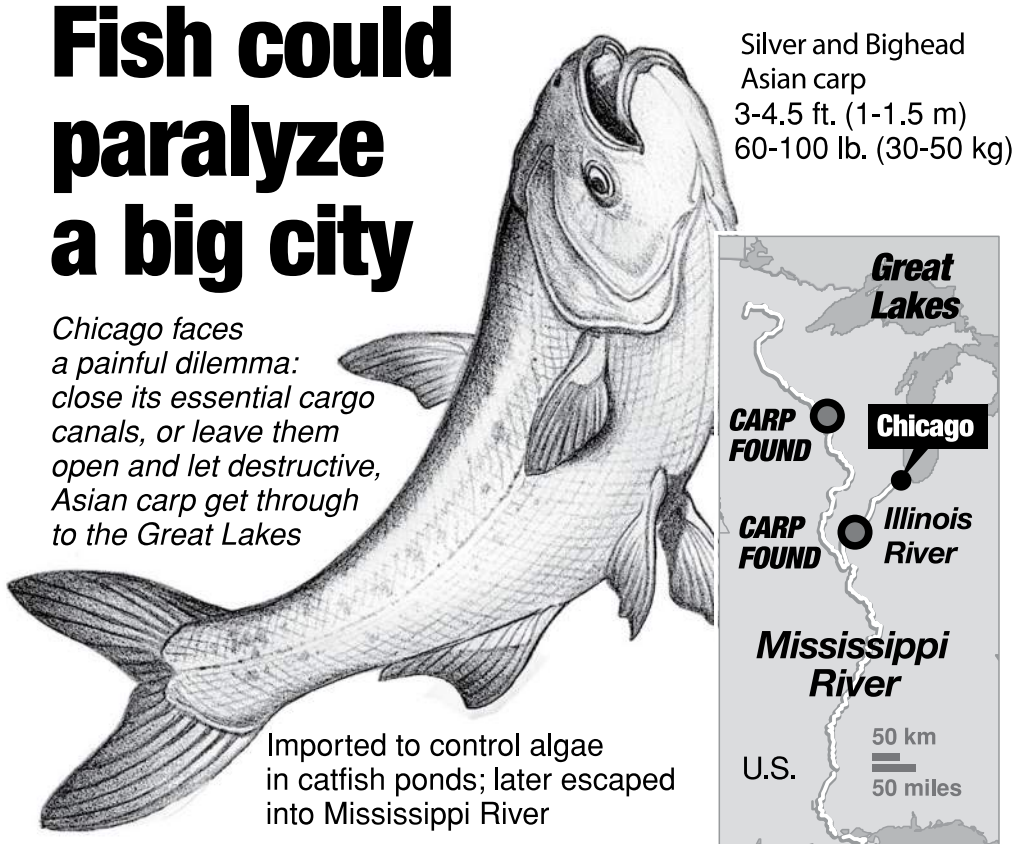
- Requiring federal registration of pesticides sold or distributed in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Prohibiting the use of any pesticide in a manner inconsistent with product labeling.
- Restricting the sale and use of certain hazardous pesticides to licensed dealers and certified applicator.
- Prohibiting the importation of unregistered pesticides.

For more information on pesticides and their use, contact the Pesticide program at the Division of Environmental Quality at 664-8500/1 or via email at environment@deq.gov.mp. ***(DEQ)***

Science Matters

Fish could paralyze a big city

Chicago faces a painful dilemma: close its essential cargo canals, or leave them open and let destructive, Asian carp get through to the Great Lakes



If Chicago canals are closed

Cargo equal to 1.7 million truckloads a year would be halted

Jet fuel oil for Chicago's O'Hare Airport arrives largely via canal barges

Road salt, a difficult, corrosive product to move, is transported mostly by barge.

Coal to power electric generating stations is brought into Chicago on barges

Petroleum products come into Chicago through waterways, along with landscaping supplies and building materials

If carp get through canals

They may reproduce in Great Lakes, become a permanent population there

Carp would take over, eating plankton and driving out native species

Estimated damage to fisheries and tourism: $7 billion

© 2010 MCT

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, American Waterways Operators, ESRI, TeleAtlas

Graphic: Keith Claxton, Chicago Tribune

Texas co. appeals $18M RI mercury storage penalty

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A Texas energy company convicted of illegally storing hazardous mercury in a rundown Rhode Island building asked a federal appeals court Tuesday to throw out an $18 million penalty, calling the punishment "grossly excessive."

The mercury, stored by the Southern Union gas company in a building in Pawtucket, was exposed to the public in 2004 after vandals broke in and dumped a container of the hazardous liquid at a nearby apartment complex.

A federal judge last October fined the company $6 million and ordered it to pay an additional $12 million for storing the mercury without a permit.

Southern Union on Tuesday appealed the criminal conviction and penalty to the Boston-based 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The company said the punishment was more than 50 times higher than penalties imposed on companies that commit much worse environmental violations.

The company said the most it should face was $50,000, or the maximum fine for a single day of a violation.

"But for the intervening criminal acts of vandals who stole the mercury from Southern Union's locked storage room and spilled it at an apartment complex, Southern Union's mercury storage posed no threat to the environment or the community," lawyers for the company wrote.

The penalty was stayed while the company appealed.

Southern Union in 2001 began a program to remove from customers' homes old gas regulators containing mercury, a toxic element that can cause skin rashes and muscle weakness and disrupt the functioning of the kidneys and central nervous system in people exposed to high quantities.

Workers extracted the mercury from the regulators so it could be shipped out of state and, in the meantime, stored the substance inside a former manufactured gas plant in Pawtucket.

The company says it always intended to recycle the mercury it was storing, though federal prosecutors say workers were allowing it to haphazardly accumulate in assorted receptacles around the neglected facility.

The company says less than one gallon of mercury was stored at the building in the fall of 2004, when a group of vandals broke in, smashed several containers and tracked the toxic substance around a neighboring, low-income apartment complex.

About 90 residents settled a lawsuit last year for undisclosed terms, and their lawyer says some had symptoms such as hair loss and rashes from exposure to the spill.

Southern Union says it spent more than $6 million to clean up the mess, reimbursed displaced residents for damaged property and paid for housing.

Tom Connell, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney in Rhode Island, declined to comment but said his office would be responding to the company's appeal.

The company was acquitted at a 2008 jury trial of two other charges of failing to report the spill and of illegally storing gas regulators that still contained the mercury.

The company also argues in its appeal that the federal government lacked the regulatory authority to prosecute it for illegal mercury storage.

Life & Style

Polanski's ghost, Scorsese's mad isle highlight Berlin

By CATHERINE HICKLEY
(C) 2010, BLOOMBERG NEWS

BERLIN—Confined to a remote home in winter waiting to see whether legal moves against him will succeed, the central character of Roman Polanski's taut new political thriller has something in common with the director himself.

"The Ghost Writer," starring Pierce Brosnan, Ewan McGregor, Olivia Williams and Kim Cattrall, premiered at the Berlin Film Festival on Feb. 12. Polanski couldn't attend: He is under house arrest at his Swiss chalet, waiting to find out whether he will be extradited to the United States more than 32 years after he pleaded guilty to having sex with a 13-year-old girl.

His movie, which opens in U.S. cinemas on Feb. 19, focuses on Adam Lang, a former British prime minister who is compiling his memoirs in a bleakly luxurious glass-walled bunker on rain- swept, desolate Martha's Vineyard. Accusations of war crimes pile up, and he waits to find out whether the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court will press charges.

Lang's ghost writer, played by Ewan McGregor, is drafted in at the last moment because his predecessor Mike McAra, a former aide to the prime minister, drowned in suspicious circumstances. The movie opens to show McAra's empty car stranded on a ferry as the rest of the vehicles disembark in the pouring rain. A menacing score (by Alexandre Desplat) makes clear that this particular driver isn't going to come back at the last moment.

Not a scene is wasted and this is Polanski on top form. The raw material helped: The film is based on the novel "Ghost" by Robert Harris, who also collaborated with the director on the script. Harris's compact, caustically witty dialogue scarcely needed adapting for the screen.

BLOOMBERG
British street artist Banksy is the subject of the film "Exit Through the Gift Shop," showing at the Berlin Film Festival.

BLOOMBERG
Left, actors Olivia Williams and Pierce Brosnan star in Roman Polanski's "The Ghost Writer." The film, along with Martin Scorcese's "Shutter Island," premiered at the Berlin Film Festival.

CIA Torture

As for the story, which Harris completed in 2007: "Events have conspired to make the book seem more like a documentary than a fantasy," the writer told a press conference in Berlin. "It has been a very strange experience."

As press reports emerge that Lang approved the handover of four British citizens to the CIA to be tortured, the net around the former prime minister tightens. The ghost writer begins to realize that his predecessor may have been privy to a secret that proved deadly—one that might be hidden in his draft of the book.

Brosnan doesn't imitate Tony Blair—nor is Olivia Williams as his wife, Ruth, a copy of Cherie Blair. The parallels don't need to be spelled out. (Yet ex-British Foreign Secretary Richard Rycart, played by Robert Pugh, bears more than a passing resemblance to Robin Cook, the minister who resigned in 2003 over the decision to invade Iraq.)

Lang stays in the U.S. to avoid arrest in Britain. Polanski shot his film in Germany—on the North Sea island of Sylt and on the Baltic coast—to avoid being apprehended in the U.S. His arrest in Switzerland happened while the film was in post- production, and he continued working on it in jail and later at his Swiss chalet, according to producer Robert Benmussa.

One niggle is that the cast's accents are not pitch- perfect; both Cattrall and Brosnan fail to get the crisp Oxbridge enunciation right. Cattrall, all aloof efficiency and cold seductiveness as Lang's personal assistant Amelia Bly, lets drop a "seddled" for "settled"—something her clipped character would never allow. This may be a flaw only British audiences will notice (and probably look for).

Another veteran director, another engrossing thriller: Martin Scorsese's "Shutter Island" stars Leonardo DiCaprio as a U.S. marshal sent to investigate the disappearance of a murderess from an asylum for the criminally insane.

If Martha's Vineyard is dismal in Polanski's movie, Shutter Island, under attack by a hurricane, is so inhospitable that even the crazed inmates are telling DiCaprio to "run." At times, the tension is too much to take seriously as DiCaprio roams damp, dark corridors where deranged psychopaths lurk, lights flicker and figures jump out of the shadows.

Based on a novel by Dennis Lehane and set in the 1950s, the movie is laden with conspiracy, paranoia and delusion as characters whisper about Nazi experiments, lobotomies and hallucinogenic drugs. Ben Kingsley is brilliantly ambiguous as the smooth psychiatrist Dr. Cawley and Max von Sydow is magnificently creepy as his accomplice Dr. Naehring.

Yet all this adds up to an overdose of Victorian-style gothic horror, with a twist that proved too contrived for this reviewer to accept. Think of those annoying soap operas when you find out that the last five episodes were just a dream -- you feel cheated and start to mix up which bits were imagined and which were real. A director like Scorsese has no need for such gimmicks.

The movie is atmospheric and entertaining, even exhilarating in parts. DiCaprio does a fine job of trying to make sense of his role, which becomes somewhat garbled with all the trickery. "Shutter Island" is just too much like a parody to have full emotional impact.

Movie shot during Iran election debuts in Berlin

BERLIN (AP)—An Iranian movie made against the backdrop of last year's election campaign and centering on a man whose wife is killed in a shootout between police and demonstrators made its debut Tuesday at the Berlin film festival.

Director Rafi Pitts said he received authorization to make "The Hunter" from Iranian authorities and shot it before the violence that followed President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's disputed reelection last June.

Pitts, who grew up in Tehran but has lived in Britain and France since, said he had "no idea" when the film might be shown in Iran.

"I don't think it's a one-sided film, so I think it has the right to be shown," he said at a news conference. "The question is, will they give me the right?"

The film's main character, played by the director, is released from prison amid talk of upcoming elections and Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, talking on the radio about change.

He tries to spend time with his wife and young daughter, but they are accidentally killed in a shootout. Pitts' character, Ali, randomly shoots dead two policemen on a city highway after a long and frustrating wait for information, and flees before being nabbed by two officers who argue about what to do with their captive.

Pitts insisted that the film depicts a "Kafkaesque situation (that) relates to many countries, it's a universal theme."

"A script is a road map, and with that road map you will then make your film inspired by anything that surrounds you," he said. "It happened to be that we were shooting the film during the elections."

"When the (postelection) events took place, of course I felt a lot of pain for what happened, of course I disagree with it, but ... I can't foresee the future in that way," he added. Demonstrators' chants can be heard off-camera in the film.

"The Hunter" is one of 20 films competing for the festival's top Golden Bear prize, which will be awarded Saturday.

It is the latest of several Iranian films to compete in Berlin in recent years, including Pitts' "It's Winter" in 2006. Jafar Panahi's "Offside," a film following girls who disguise themselves as boys to sneak into a football match in Tehran, won a runner-up Silver Bear the same year.

Panahi, whose "The Circle" won the Venice film festival's top Golden Lion prize in 2000, was scheduled to attend a panel discussion on Iranian cinema in Berlin, but organizers said Tuesday that he had been denied permission to leave Iran.

"We are surprised and deeply regret that a director who has won so many international prizes has been denied the possibility to take part ... and to speak about his cinematic visions," festival director Dieter Kosslick said in a statement.

Iranian director Rafi Pitts gestures at the photo call for the film 'The Hunter' at the International Film Festival Berlinale in Berlin, Germany, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010.

AP

Panahi was briefly detained during a July demonstration in Tehran and wore a green scarf—the opposition's color—at a Montreal festival last summer. In apparent retaliation, authorities barred him and others from traveling to another festival in October.

"I believe in freedom of speech," Pitts said. "I think that he should be here."

Palin, daughter lash out at 'Family Guy' episode

AP
Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin greets fans prior to the start of the Daytona 500 NASCAR auto race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010.

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—Sarah Palin is lashing out at the portrayal of a character with Down syndrome on the Fox animated comedy "Family Guy." In a Facebook posting headlined "Fox Hollywood—What a Disappointment," the 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee and current Fox News contributor said Sunday night's episode felt like "another kick in the gut." Palin's youngest son, Trig, has Down syndrome.

The episode features the character Chris falling for a girl with Down syndrome. On a date, he asks what her parents do.

She replies: "My dad's an accountant, and my mom is the former governor of Alaska."

Palin resigned as Alaska governor last summer.

Palin's oldest daughter, Bristol, also was quoted on her mother's Facebook page, calling the show's writers "heartless jerks."

"When you're the son or daughter of a public figure, you have to develop thick skin. My siblings and I all have that, but insults directed at our youngest brother hurt too much for us to remain silent," she is quoted as saying.

"If the writers of a particularly pathetic cartoon show thought they were being clever in mocking my brother and my family yesterday, they failed," Bristol Palin added in the Monday posting. "All they proved is that they're heartless jerks."

Palin wrote that she'd asked her daughter what she thought of the show and Bristol's reply was "a much more restrained and gracious statement than I want to make about an issue that begs the question: When is enough enough?"

This isn't the first time Palin has spoken out over an attack, real or perceived, on her family. Last year, she condemned a joke David Letterman made about her daughter, for which he later apologized.

A "Family Guy" publicist didn't immediately return an e-mail seeking comment.

Kardashians show off legs in bebe collaboration

AP
Kim Kardashian poses before the Bebe Kardashians fall 2010 collection show during Fashion Week Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010 in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Reality show stars Kim, Kourtney and Khloe Kardashian can now sell the clothes right off their backs to their fans.

The brunette sisters collaborated with fast-fashion chain bebe to offer a line inspired by pieces from the girls' closets, a collection shown Tuesday during New York Fashion Week to another face made famous by reality TV: "Jersey Shore" diva Jenni "JWoww" Farley.

The line, which is available this month in bebe stores, consisted of basic jerseys, fitted blazers and leather separates devoid of embellishment or the company's signature rhinestone branding. Kim Kardashian, who sat front-row next to sister Kourtney's boyfriend Scott Disick, posed for cameras in one of the looks—a gray stretch mini dress under a cropped leather corset—that emphasized the assets for which she is known.

The tight and short silhouette was reiterated throughout, including spandex one-shoulder dresses with side cutouts and a stretch jersey-and-mesh tube dress so short that the model had to adjust the length midcatwalk.

An olive silk army jacket with oversized, slouchy pockets and a white silk blouse were the more expensive-looking pieces. Many leather separates, including a pair of micro shorts, a double-layered cropped vest, more than a few types of jackets and moto-inspired 5-inch heels lent the collection a harder edge.

The runway presentation was not a revelation, but it's sure to please fans who can now afford to copy the "Keeping up With the Kardashian" stars' looks. And if they don't like easy Hollywood fashion, they can always wait for the styles of the Jersey shore that Farley will surely represent in the fashion line she said she's working on.

Hard-up EMI seeks buyer for Abbey Road studios

LONDON (AP)—The long and winding road of Beatles history has taken a new twist.

Cash-strapped music company EMI Group Ltd. is seeking a buyer for Abbey Road, the London studio where the Fab Four recorded some of their most famous songs, a person familiar with the situation said Tuesday.

The person said talks had been going on for several months but a buyer had not yet been found. The individual spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are private.

A spokesman for EMI refused to comment on the sale bid, which could raise tens of millions of dollars for the struggling label.

Analysts said the sale price would be far short of the $165 million EMI needs to survive, and would mean giving up one of its most high-profile assets—not just a recording studio, but a tourist attraction and shrine for Beatles fans.

"It's like throwing sandbags off the crippled balloon," said Adrian Drury, an analyst at Ovum Securities. "It is not going to help its cash situation that much. But EMI management are trying to desperately raise cash wherever they can, so the normal rules don't apply."

AP
People walk on the zebra crossing made famous from the album cover of The Beatles' 'Abbey Road' in front of Abbey Road Studios, seen in the background, in London, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010.

EMI, whose artists include Coldplay, Lily Allen and Robbie Williams, has struggled financially since it was bought in 2007 for 2.4 billion pounds by private equity firm Terra Firma Capital Partners.

EMI has fared worse than the other major labels—Universal, Sony BMG and Warner Music Group—amid the decline of CD sales and the rise of digital music downloading.

Several big-name acts, including Radiohead and the Rolling Stones, quit the label amid the cutbacks and restructuring that followed Terra Firma's takeover.

An audited report released earlier this month revealed that Terra Firma needs a huge cash infusion by June to avoid defaulting on its loans from Citigroup Inc. and may require more than $165 million to last through this year.

If funds can't be raised and the loan goes into default, Citigroup could seize EMI and cause it to be sold or broken up.

EMI's predecessor bought the Georgian town house at 3 Abbey Road in London's residential St. John's Wood neighborhood for 100,000 pounds in 1929 and turned it into one of the world's most sophisticated recording studios.

Hannity releasing book on Obama's 'radical agenda'

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News host Sean Hannity has a new book coming next month.

HarperCollins announced Tuesday that it will issue Hannity's "Conservative Victory" on March 30. The paperback is billed as a call to defeat President Barack Obama's "radical agenda."

The book will have a first printing of 1.5 million copies.

Hannity is also the author of "Deliver Us From Evil." Other recent conservative best-sellers include Sarah Palin's "Going Rogue" and Glenn Beck's "Arguing with Idiots."

In this July 31, 2009 file photo, Fox News Channel television host, author, and conservative political commentator, Sean Hannity poses for a photo prior to speaking in Tyler, Texas.

AP

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Nasha Marie Taitano Dela Cruz

June 21, 1990 – February 13, 2010

Was called to her eternal rest on Saturday February 13, 2010 at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan at the age of 19.

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Parents:	Ramon Francisco Santos/Sandra T. Dela Cruz
Stepfather:	Wayne C. Lizama
Maternal Grandparents :	Antonio Muna Dela Cruz/Rosa Sato Taitano
Brothers & Sisters:	Mecerdes Ann Marie, Junora Shineal, Reandra Shanice, Wayomi Kiara, Wayan Vickilyn, Wayne Junior, Rosa, Nitsha Santos, Rayann Santos, Ryan Santos, Regina Santos and Noah Santos

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces.

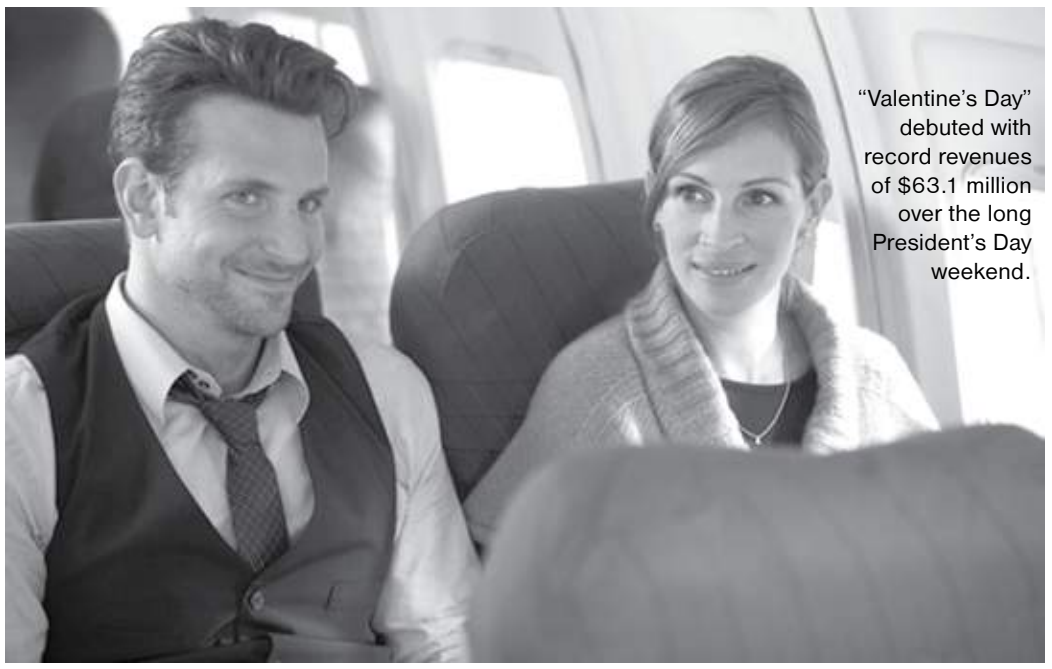
In her new life, she now joins her:

Maternal Great-Grandparents:	Policarpio Q. and Consolation S. Taitano
Paternal Great-Grandparents:	Manuel L. and Blandina M. Dela Cruz
Aunt:	Maria S. Taitano
Uncles:	Jose S. Taitano, Crispin S. Taitano, Juan S. Taitano, Raphael T. Tereyama

Nightly rosary is at the residence of Ms. Lucia Dela Cruz on Tinian, at 8:00 p.m. and at her mother's house in Dandan, Saipan, at 7:00 p.m.

On Friday, February 19th her remains will leave CHC at 2:00 p.m. and will be taken to Tinian and rosary will be said. On Saturday, February 20th, her remains will leave Tinian Morgue at 8:00 a.m. and will be taken to San Jose Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, February 20th, at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow immediately after the Mass at Tinian Cemetery. Lunch will be served after the burial at the residence of Ms. Lucia Dela Cruz in Sub Division.

‘Valentine’s Day’ seduces fans with $63.1M debut



“Valentine’s Day” debuted with record revenues of $63.1 million over the long President’s Day weekend.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie fans showed some love for “Valentine’s Day,” an all-star romance that debuted with record revenues of $63.1 million over the long President’s Day weekend.

That beat previous record-holder “Ghost Rider,” which pulled in $52 million over the four-day holiday weekend in 2007.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Monday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Tuesday by Hollywood.com are:

1. “**Valentine’s Day**,” Warner Bros., $63,135,312, 3,665 locations, $17,227 average, $63,135,312, one week.

2. “**Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief**,” Fox, $38,661,634, 3,356 locations, $11,520 average, $38,661,634, one week.

3. “**The Wolfman**,” Universal, $35,555,065, 3,222 locations, $11,035 average, $35,555,065, one week.

4. “**Avatar**,” Fox, $28,782,849, 2,685 locations, $10,720 average, $666,388,502, nine weeks.

5. “**Dear John**,” Sony Screen Gems, $18,200,188, 2,975 locations, $6,118 average, $56,077,760, two weeks.

6. “**The Tooth Fairy**,” Fox, $8,005,767, 2,748 locations, $2,913 average, $43,934,502, four weeks.

7. “**From Paris With Love**,” Lionsgate, $6,352,780, 2,722 locations, $2,334 average, $17,465,570, two weeks.

8. “**Edge of Darkness**,” Warner Bros., $5,570,476, 2,615 locations, $2,130 average, $37,054,157, three weeks.

9. “**Crazy Heart**,” Fox Searchlight, $4,982,062, 1,005 locations, $4,957 average, $17,509,037, nine weeks.

10. “**When in Rome**,” Disney, $4,277,925, 2,125 locations, $2,013 average, $26,875,654, three weeks.

11. “**The Book of Eli**,” Warner Bros., $4,211,221, 1,825 locations, $2,308 average, $88,165,452, five weeks.

12. “**The Blind Side**,” Warner Bros., $2,667,208, 1,175 locations, $2,270 average, $245,133,549, 13 weeks.

13. “**My Name Is Khan**,” Fox Searchlight, $2,264,983, 120 locations, $18,875 average, $2,264,983, one week.

14. “**Legion**,” Sony Screen Gems, $2,104,565, 1,424 locations, $1,478 average, $38,206,460, four weeks.

15. “**Up in the Air**,” Paramount, $2,063,060, 925 locations, $2,230 average, $79,501,829, 11 weeks.

16. “**Sherlock Holmes**,” Warner Bros., $1,887,387, 950 locations, $1,987 average, $204,350,996, eight weeks.

17. “**Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel**,” Fox, $1,696,335, 1,057 locations, $1,605 average, $214,311,806, eight weeks.

18. “**It’s Complicated**,” Universal, $1,396,925, 787 locations, $1,775 average, $109,741,850, eight weeks.

19. “**The Princess and the Frog**,” Disney, $811,714, 441 locations, $1,841 average, $101,951,400, 12 weeks.

20. “**The Lovely Bones**,” Paramount, $804,802, 833 locations, $966 average, $42,962,418, 10 weeks.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don’t just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$5.50 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.50 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.50 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.50 Military with Valid I.D.

T TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.50 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday, February 12th through Thursday, February 18th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

The Lightning Thief

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Monday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Tues thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Logan Lerman, Pierce Brosnan
Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis
Throuble-prone Percy Jackson is having problem in high school–but that’s the least of his challenges. It’s the 21st century, but the gods of Mount Olympus seem to have walked out of the pages of Percy’s Greek mythology texts and into his life. Percy has learned that his real father is Poseidon, god of the sea, which means Percy is a demigod–half human, half god. At the same time, Zeus, the king of all gods, has accused Percy of stealing Zeus’ lightning bolt…the original weapon of mass destruction.

The Wolfman

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:35
Monday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Tues thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Benicio del Toro, Anthony Hopkins
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
Universal Studios resurrects the classic lycanthrope with this tale of an American who experiences an unsettling transformation after returning to his ancestral home in Victorian-era Great Britain and being attacked by a rampaging werewolf. His brother having recently vanished without a trace, haunted nobleman Lawrence Talbot (Benicio Del Toro) returns to his family estate to investigate. What he discovers upon reuniting with his estranged father (Anthony Hopkins), however, is a destiny far darker than his blackest nightmares.

Valentine’s Day

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:50
Monday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Tues thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Julia Roberts, Anne Hathaway
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Nobody, Nobody But Juan

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tues thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Dolphy, Eddie Garcia
Comedy • Rated NR

★ ★ ★

From Paris With Love

Friday		4:15	7:25	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:30
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Tues thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers
Crime • Rated R

Synopsis
John Travolta and Jonathan Rhys-Meyers star in the spy thriller From Paris With Love for District B13’s helmer Pierre Morel and EuropaCorp. The Luc Besson/Adi Hasak-penned tale revolves around the entwining paths of an American spy and an embassy worker during a tumultuous time in Paris.

The Tooth Fairy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tues thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG

Avatar

Friday		3:55	6:55	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	12:50	3:55	6:55	10:00
Monday	12:50	3:55	6:55	
Tues thru Thurs		3:55	6:55	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.
www.gohollywood.com

Chilly weather can’t stop New Orleans’ big party

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Pete Fountain, clarinet in hand and looking dapper in a white tuxedo and fedora trimmed in gold, kicked off Mardi Gras with his “Half Fast Marching Club” the way they have for 50 years: with beads and jazz.

“We’re slower than we were, and older than we were,” Fountain, 79, said with a laugh. “But on Mardi Gras none of it matters.”

Tuesday, the final day of Carnival, was sunny and cold with high temperatures hanging around 50 degrees. That didn’t do much to chill a party that has been rolling since the New Orleans Saints won the Super Bowl Feb. 7.

“I have plenty of antifreeze with me if I need it,” said Jessie Grace, 57, playfully waving a flask from his pocket. “If Mardi Gras doesn’t warm you up, nothing will.”

Grace and about 30 family members and friends staked out their spot on St. Charles Avenue at 2 a.m., setting up chairs and tables. By 7 a.m. gumbo was cooking in a big pot and ribs were on the barbecue grill.

AP

Pete Fountain gives the thumbs-up as he prepares to lead his Half Fast Walking Club through the streets of New Orleans, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010.

Many along the parade route wore Saints jerseys. One group of cyclists was costumed as flying pigs, which long-suffering fans had always said they would see if the Saints won the big game.

“Hell froze over,” said Sandra Bell, 51, shivering under a blanket. “Can’t you feel it?”

“It’s a big, big deal,” said Glynn Brown, 55, who joked he had taken out a second mortgage to pay for the Saints gear he and his family were decked out in. “But Mardi Gras is our heritage.”

The Saints were toasted as kings, invited by krewes to ride floats across the city. Quarterback Drew Brees, coach Sean Payton and owner Tom Benson served as monarchs of parades, while players Devery Henderson, Charles Grant, Deuce McAllister and others rode a float built by the Krewe of Zulu.

They sparked huge cheers, especially when they tossed small foam footballs to the crowd.

Mayor Ray Nagin and other city officials rode on horseback to the reviewing stand where they watched the parades and toasted the krewes who organize them. Nagin, making his last ride as mayor, wore a jacket saluting the Saints.

By afternoon, crowds on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter had grown. The cold also didn’t stop the tradition of people on balconies tossing beads to the crowd below in exchange for a glimpse of flesh.

Elaborate costumes filled the street, with heavy emphasis on the Saints: Two men dressed as the Lombardi Trophy—the totem of the NFL championship—and another group dressed as fleur-de-lis, the unofficial emblem of the city and the team.

The party traditionally wraps up at midnight when the police clear Bourbon Street and Lent begins.

Cohen, Earth Wind & Fire members up for honors

NEW YORK (AP)—Among those up for enshrinement in the Songwriters Hall of Fame this year are Leonard Cohen, key members of Earth, Wind & Fire, and producer-composer David Foster.

AP

In this April 17, 2009 file photo Leonard Cohen performs during the first day of the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.

The hall made the announcement of its inductees on Tuesday. Earth, Wind & Fire’s Maurice White, Philip Bailey and Verdine (vuhr-DEEN’) White are being honored in addition to Foster and Cohen.

Also up for honors are Johnny Mandel, Jackie DeShannon, Larry Dunn and Al McKay.

The Hall of Fame celebrates composers and lyricists. The ceremony is set for June 17 in New York City.

Emotional Lady Gaga sweeps UK's Brit Awards

LONDON (AP)—Flamboyant chanteuse Lady Gaga swept the U.K.'s Brit Awards Tuesday winning three categories and offering an emotional tribute to Alexander McQueen, the British fashion designer who died last week.

Gaga collected awards for best international female artist, best international breakthrough act and best international album for "The Fame," and performed at the ceremony wearing a towering white wig and lace veil—complete with ornate lace eyebrows.

At points, the singer appeared overcome with emotion and paid tribute to McQueen as she collected her first prize—referring to the designer by the name Lee. "Thank you to Lee McQueen," Gaga said, her voice strained.

Gaga, a friend of McQueen, recently wore his iconic lobster-claw shoes in her "Bad Romance" music video. The designer was found dead Thursday after apparently committing suicide.

The awards are the British equivalent of the Grammys, with most winners selected by a vote of more than 1,000 industry members.

U.S. rapper Jay-Z also claimed an award, for best international male, during a ceremony at London Earl's Court arena. Other international nominees had included Bruce Springsteen, Eminem, Jay-Z, Michael Buble and Shakira.

British boy band JLS claimed an award for best domestic breakthrough act, while recently split rockers Oasis won a one-off prize when their "(What's The Story) Morning Glory?" was named best British album of the last 30 years. Kasabian were named best British band.

Former "Take That" member and solo artist Robbie Williams received a special award for contribution to music.

Prince Harry addressed the ceremony in a recorded video message, giving the show—which has sometimes taken a raucous turn in the past—a royal stamp of approval.

Harry, third in line to the British crown, praised the awards as a celebration of "all that is totally wonderful and unique about British music."

AP

Singer Lady Gaga attends the amfAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research) benefit gala on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010 in New York.

AP

In this May 2, 2008 file photo, Ace Young arrives at the 15th annual Race to Erase event in Los Angeles.

'American Idol' and 'Spring Awakening' alums head for 'Hair'

NEW YORK (AP)—Alums from "American Idol" and "Spring Awakening" are going into the Broadway cast of "Hair."

When the new cast of the Tony-winning musical revival takes over March 9, it will include Ace Young as Tribe leader Berger, Kyle Riabko (ree-AB'-ko) as good buddy Claude and Diana DeGarmo as Sheila.

Both Young and DeGarmo are "American Idol" finalists. Riabko starred as the thoughtful student heartthrob, Melchior (mel-KEY'-or), in both the Broadway and touring companies of "Spring Awakening."

On Tuesday, Public Theater artistic director Oskar Eustis (YOO'-stihs) said: "We've got a new Tribe—utterly unique, and just as talented and joyous as our first company."

The original revival cast will head to England where they begin performances April 1 in London.

Publicist: Phillips in rehab for anxiety

NEW YORK (AP)—A representative for Chynna Phillips says the 42-year-old singer has entered an undisclosed treatment facility for anxiety.

A statement issued by her publicist, Lizzie Grubman, says Phillips checked herself into the facility "after much thoughtful deliberation."

Grubman says Phillips is "looking forward to her recovery." The statement asks that people respect Phillips' privacy and the privacy of her family.

Phillips, of the pop group Wilson Phillips, is married to actor William Baldwin. The couple have three children.

She is the half-sister of former child actress Mackenzie Phillips, who claimed in a 2009 memoir that she had a decade-long sexual relationship with their father, pop star John Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas.

In this Sept. 26, 2005 file photo, Chynna Phillips arrives at Lincoln Center in New York for the premiere of the film "The Squid and the Whale."

AP

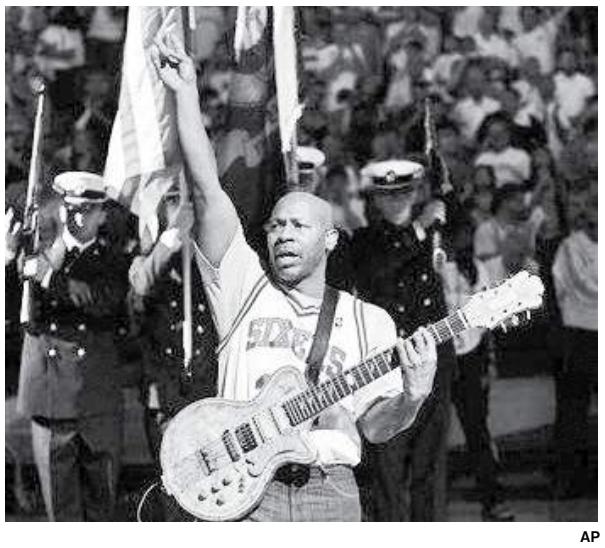
7 'Idol' contestants make it to semifinals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Seven "American Idol" contestants can stop worrying, for now: They're in the top 24.

The Fox TV singing contest revealed the first of the lucky semifinalists on Tuesday's show. They are Didi Benami, 23, of Los Angeles; Lee Dewyze, 23, Mount Prospect, Ill.; Katelyn Epperly, 19, West Des Moines, Iowa; Aaron Kelly, 16, Sonestown, Pa.; Casey James, 27, Fort Worth, Texas; Todrick Hall, 24, Arlington, Texas and Michael "Big Mike" Lynche, 26, of Astoria, N.Y.;

The other 17 semifinalists will be announced on Wednesday's episode.

Longtime Leno bandleader Kevin Eubanks may exit



AP

In this April 26, 2009 file photo, guitarist Kevin Eubanks preforms the national anthem before the start of Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series between the Orlando Magic and the Philadelphia 76ers in Philadelphia.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay Leno's longtime bandleader, Kevin Eubanks, may not play very long once the Leno troupe returns to "The Tonight Show."

NBC said Tuesday that Eubanks has expressed interest in personal touring and recording. The network says he will be part of the show when it reoccupies late night March 1, but his continued involvement is uncertain.

The 52-year-old Eubanks, whose duties include comic sideman to Leno as well as guitarist, has been a fixture since Leno took the reins of "The Tonight Show" in 1992. He became musical director when Branford Marsalis left in 1995.

Eubanks was also part of "The Jay Leno Show," the NBC prime-time flop that just ended.

Leno is returning as "Tonight Show" host, a job he held for 17 years until giving it up to Conan O'Brien last May.

Men gain empathy in a 'flash' for their menopausal spouses

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: You asked female readers if we have anything to add to your advice to "Hot Flash Hilda" (Dec. 16), whose husband says she's "mean" and "freaky" because she doesn't want to snuggle when she's having a hot flash. I have had 18 years of menopause. I told my older son once that menopause constitutes justifiable homicide, and he'd better tread carefully.

Hilda should tell her husband that hot flashes are like claustrophobia. You're heating up from the inside out and have no way to escape. There are times when my skin actually hurts. Maybe if she uses "justifiable homicide" it will get through to him.

LINDA IN MESA, ARIZ.

DEAR LINDA: When I printed the question from "Hilda," I had no idea that menopause was such a hot topic and that I'd not only receive responses from women, but also from male readers. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife has also been dealing with hot flashes. Her comments to me fell on deaf ears until my doctor prescribed a niacin-based drug for triglyceride issues. He failed to advise me to take an aspirin shortly before taking the niacin. When I took the niacin for the first time, I had an instant understanding of what hot flashes were and what my wife had been subjected to for several years.

GETS IT NOW IN GEORGIA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband also didn't understand my need for distance during a hot flash. So I took him to a spa for a day of couples pampering and suggested he get into the sauna to relax.

When he was good and hot, I joined him and suggested we "snuggle." He exclaimed, "But I'm all hot and sweaty!" I smiled and said, "You're having a hot flash." That's when he finally got it.

Now he not only gives me space during a hot flash, but offers me a cool drink of water or a chilled cloth to put on my neck for the duration of the "heat wave."

DIANE IN SUSANVILLE, CALIF.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for that reply! Men need to try and understand what women feel during a hot flash. A 450-degree oven about sums it up. I bought books on the subject for my husband, but have yet to give them to him. I most certainly will now.

MICHELE IN WURTSBORO, N.Y.

DEAR MICHELE: Another way to educate a clueless spouse is for both of them to consult the wife's gynecologist or their primary physician to discuss what the hormone changes may be doing to her body and psyche.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When my hubby and I first married, he was always the warm one; I was always freezing. At night he'd snuggle me in bed until I was comfortable.

Years later, he was diagnosed with cancer. Radiation therapy caused his body temperature to drop while I, coincidentally, was going through menopause. Now I would wrap my legs around his, snuggling him until we were both comfortable.

One night, while we were all entangled, he exclaimed, "Oh, my God, we've turned into each other!" He's been gone 10 years now, and what I'd give for one more snuggle.

BONNIE IN GREENFIELD, WIS.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My partner and I are both going through menopause. Try having two women having hot flashes at the same time—the sheets nearly burst into flames. Hilda should be grateful she's not going through WOMENopause.

VICKIE IN TEXAS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: On a recent trip to Rome, my husband generously sprinkled fresh peppers in his food (while the waiter shook his head). Heat seared through his body. His eyes were glassy, sweat beaded on his forehead and he gulped the whole carafe of water. I looked at him and said, "Welcome to MY world."

ANITA IN ORANGE CITY, IOWA

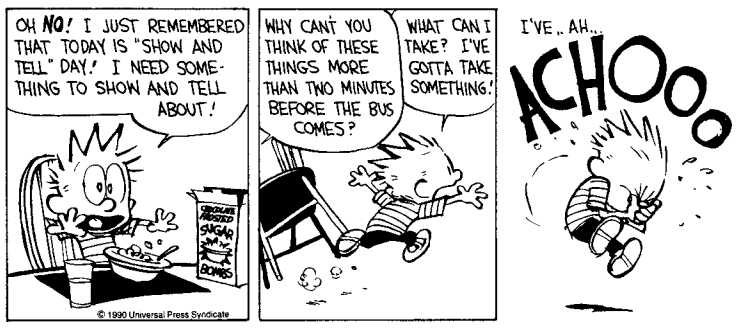
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

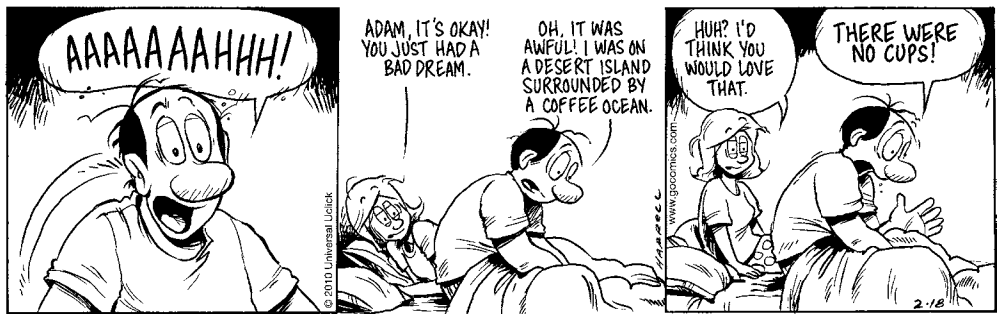

OH NO! I JUST REMEMBERED THAT TODAY IS "SHOW AND TELL" DAY! I NEED SOMETHING TO SHOW AND TELL ABOUT!
WHY CAN'T YOU THINK OF THESE THINGS MORE THAN TWO MINUTES BEFORE THE BUS COMES?
WHAT CAN I TAKE? I'VE GOTTA TAKE SOMETHING!
I'VE.. AH...
ACHOOO
NEVER MIND, MOM! DO WE HAVE ANY PLASTIC BAGS?
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW. I DON'T WANT TO KNOW. I DON'T..
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

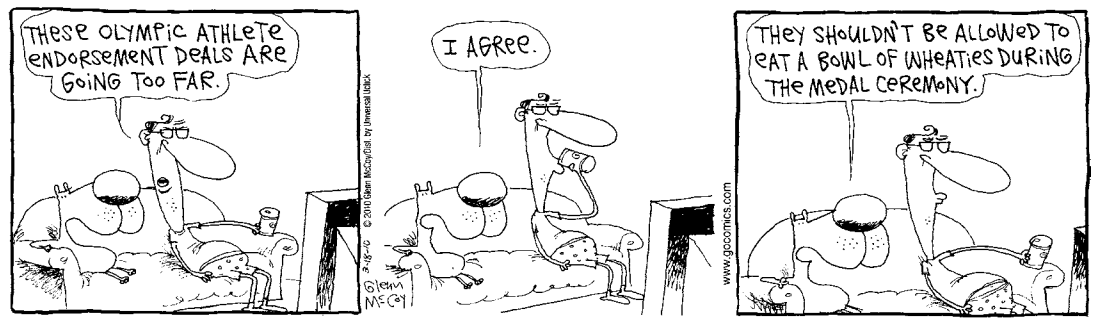
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


AAAAAAAHHH!
ADAM, IT'S OKAY! YOU JUST HAD A BAD DREAM.
OH, IT WAS AWFUL! I WAS ON A DESERT ISLAND SURROUNDED BY A COFFEE OCEAN.
HUH? I'D THINK YOU WOULD LOVE THAT.
THERE WERE NO CUPS!
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THESE OLYMPIC ATHLETE ENDORSEMENT DEALS ARE GOING TOO FAR.
I AGREE.
THEY SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO EAT A BOWL OF WHEATIES DURING THE MEDAL CEREMONY.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy Distributed by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

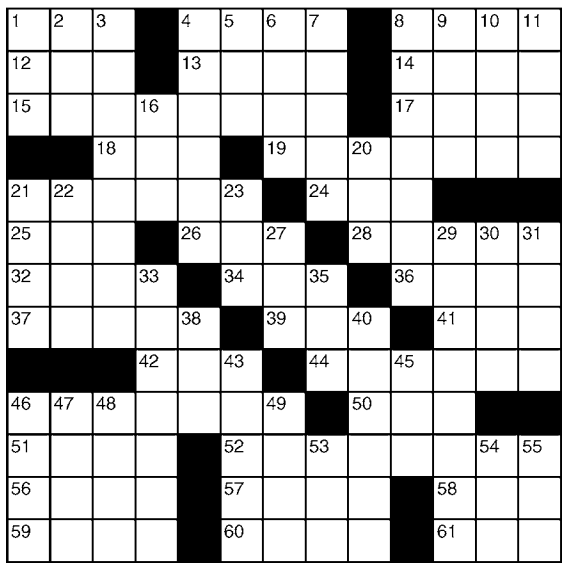
ACROSS
1 Suitable
4 Seven Dwarfs' workplace
8 Family-biz abbr.
12 To and —
13 Newspaper page
14 Inauguration recitation
15 Marinara ingredients
17 Aware of
18 Bonfire residue
19 Windows workspace
21 Infamous middle name of 1865
24 Mainlander's memento
25 Ailing
26 Massage
28 Bar legally
32 Carriage
34 Actress Dawber
36 Vagrant
37 Check recipient
39 Heavy weight
41 Cattle call
42 Stick with a kick
44 Window in a roof
46 Like Times Square on 12/31
50 Purchase
51 Wheels of fortune?
52 Annie's song
56 Maple genus
57 Thoroughfare
58 Inseparable
59 Overstudious sort
60 Bohemian
61 Pirouette pivot

DOWN
1 Sternward
2 Expert
3 Lobster liver
4 Whistler subject
5 WSJ news item
6 Require
7 Ford fizzle
8 Like 59-Across, probably
9 Carry on
10 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
11 Boutique
16 Request
20 Get a glimpse of
21 Chicken (out)
22 Hip bones
23 Dine
27 Cudgel
29 "Nonsense!"
30 Reed instrument
31 Indigent
33 Fox, for one
35 Chic, to Austin Powers
38 Conclusion
40 VIP's opposite
43 Aquarium fish
45 Capek play
46 Talon
47 Puerto —
48 Portent
49 "Let's Make a Deal" choice
53 Wrestling surface
54 Yoko of music
55 Teensy

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	O	P		D	O	D	O		A	G	E	S
A	M	O		E	V	E	R		L	A	M	E
N	I	L		F	A	C	E	V	A	L	U	E
S	T	O	O	L			O	A	R			
			D	E	B	T		N	U	T	T	Y
F	A	C	E	C	A	R	D		M	Y	R	A
A	D	Z		T	R	E	E	D		P	I	N
D	I	A	L		F	A	C	E	B	O	O	K
S	T	R	E	W		D	O	S	E			
			G	A	S			T	E	M	P	T
F	A	C	E	S	A	V	E	R		Y	E	A
A	N	O	N		N	E	R	O		T	S	P
R	I	N	D		S	T	A	Y		H	O	E

Yesterday's answer 2-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Molly Ringwald, 42; Dr. Dre, 45; Matt Dillon, 46; John Travolta, 56

Happy Birthday: This year, it will be vital to see things clearly before you take action. Trust only what is factual and follow your gut feeling, not what someone else tells you. Past and present dealings will contribute to how things unfold in the future. There is no room for error. Your numbers are 5, 8, 19, 25, 30, 33, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Open up about the way you feel and about what you 'd like to see happen. Giving in to someone's selfish needs will not make you feel good about who you are. Focus on what really matters to you and your community. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If you aren't willing to do your share, how can you expect others to? Explain to others what is wrong and what can make things right for the organization or people you are concerned about. An interesting partnership will develop. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be faced with both negative and positive reactions and must be prepared to sway the people who don't agree with you. Your unusual way of expressing what you want should help you secure the foothold you need to proceed with your plans. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Speak up if you want to correct misinformation that is circulating. Don't be afraid of change to your status or your professional goals. Nothing is as bad as it seems if you put in time and effort. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Look for an unusual opportunity to raise your income. There is money to be made if you decide to buy, sell or invest in something you believe in. A change of plans may be unnerving but will bring greater insight. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): View your glass as half full and put your imagination to work for you. The ideas you come up with will help to buffer some of the financial losses you have incurred. Nothing is out of reach if you put your mind to it. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will be able to develop a good working relationship with someone who has the potential to bring what you are lacking to the project. Spontaneity will allow you to bring attention to your plans and gain the help you will need. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Not everyone will be as intuitive as you are. The possibilities are endless if you stay on course and prepare for the changes to your personal life that have been on your mind for some time. A move is evident. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A romantic problem can cloud your vision, causing you to backtrack and second-guess what you are doing. Don't let anyone slow you down. A residential move will help solve some problems. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't give in to someone else's nastiness. Travel plans will lead to delays and should be put on hold, if possible. Less will turn out to be more when it comes to an explanation you must make. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a long, hard look at your goals and, if you aren't happy with what you see, it may be time to rediscover what you have to offer. New beginnings are always difficult but they can be exciting and rewarding as well. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Talk to someone in a position of power about a project you want to pursue. An unusual way of dealing with a partnership will be a means to get what you want. Approach someone you used to rely on for insight. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive to criticism and open about the way you feel. You are quick to adapt and are affectionate, loving and a team player.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8								9
				1				
9	6		4		3		8	7
		7				8		
	3			6			4	
		9				1		
1	5		8		6		7	4
				9				
2								8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	4	3	1	5	2	8	9
9	8	5	6	2	7	4	1	3
3	2	1	8	4	9	6	5	7
2	4	6	1	8	3	7	9	5
8	1	9	7	5	2	3	6	4
7	5	3	4	9	6	1	2	8
1	6	7	5	3	8	9	4	2
5	3	2	9	6	4	8	7	1
4	9	8	2	7	1	5	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/17

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DON'T BE LATE **Solution: 4 letters**

S	G	Y	S	E	N	O	P	T	S	O	(P)	(A)	(C)	(E)
W	C	N	A	T	L	I	U	G	N	I	Y	A	P	S
A	E	H	I	L	U	G	N	I	C	A	L	P	E	K
R	R	I	E	T	E	C	I	R	P	H	S	T	G	C
N	D	R	V	D	E	D	S	S	W	E	A	T	N	A
I	E	E	I	R	U	E	H	F	C	L	E	R	I	B
N	S	T	P	V	E	L	M	N	Y	S	U	B	G	T
G	T	P	A	A	E	T	E	C	O	E	E	S	A	E
T	I	M	E	R	R	U	N	L	O	D	S	P	M	S
T	N	I	B	N	Q	T	T	I	G	S	A	O	A	E
N	A	S	S	E	A	T	L	F	E	G	T	T	D	R
E	T	S	S	R	H	L	A	R	S	G	U	L	E	E
I	I	N	D	S	O	I	T	S	A	L	A	R	Y	V
L	O	Y	U	T	L	S	N	Y	E	N	O	M	T	E
C	N	R	I	D	E	E	U	D	R	E	V	O	E	S

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 2/18

Arrive, Behind, Busy, Charge, Client, Consequences, Costly, Cuts, Damaging, Date, Delay, Depart, Destination, Fail, Game, Guilt, Interview, Last, Late, Lose, Meeting, Miss, Money, Overdue, Pace, Paying, Penalty, Placing, Postpone, Price, Punishment, Rate, Ride, Rush, Schedule, Seat, Setbacks, Severe, Spot, Stress, Struggle, Sweat, Tardy, Time, Toll, Warning

Yesterday's Answer: Soldier

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

WHATZIT Solution: Neither here nor there

www. saipantribune.com

Zina Camacho Nekaifes
P.O. Box 503453 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 322-3544 (H)
287-3283 (C)/322-0046(W)

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0077
LORILYNN CABRERA CAMACHO, Minor Child, By:	NOTICE OF HEARING
ZINA CAMACHO NEKAIFES, Petitioner.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 9, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 5th day of February, 2010.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
GRACE Y. PATIGAYON

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GRACE Y. PATIGAYON, Plaintiff, v. **GLENN THOMAS WELSH,** Respondent.	FCD-DI Civil Action No. 10-0061 **ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD (7 CMC § 1301)**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
GLENN THOMAS WELSH

PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Petition filed with the Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Petition to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Petition by contacting Petitioner's counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order To Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief of the Complaint

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
GRACE Y. PATIGAYON

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GRACE Y. PATIGAYON, Plaintiff, v. **ALDEN N. DE GUZMAN,** Respondent	FCD-DI Civil Action No. 10-0062 **ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD (7 CMC § 1301)**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: **ALDEN N. DE GUZMAN**

PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Petition filed with the Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Petition to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Petition by contacting Petitioner's counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order To Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief of the Petition.

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
JESUSANA AGUATIS ESPARAGOZA a.k.a
JESUSANA ESPARAGOZA MATAGOLAI

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JESUSANA AGUATIS ESPARAGOZA a.k.a JESUSANA ESPARAGOZA MATAGOLAI, Petitioner, v. JOELY AREVALO ESMERALDA, Respondent.	FCD-DI Civil Action No. 10-0063 ORDER TO APPEAR **OR PLEAD (7 CMC § 1301)**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
JOELY AREVALO ESMERALDA

PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Petition filed with the Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Petition to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Petition by contacting Petitioner's counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order To Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief of the Petition.

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

neitHER
neiTHER

© 2010 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in this section

Nets get 5th win, knock off Bobcats

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Courtney Lee scored 21 points and Devin Harris added 17 as the New Jersey Nets beat the Charlotte Bobcats 103-94 on Tuesday for only its fifth win of the season.

Brook Lopez added 16 points before fouling out for the energized Nets (5-48), who snapped an eight-game losing streak, improved to 2-27 on the road and moved ahead of the pace of the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers, who finished an NBA-worst 9-73.

Gerald Wallace had 21 points and 10 rebounds and Boris Diaw had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Bobcats, who allowed the NBA's worst-shooting and lowest-scoring team to shoot 52 percent.

AP

New Jersey Nets' Courtney Lee (6) goes in to dunk as Charlotte Bobcats' Boris Diaw (32), of France, and Nazr Mohammed (13) look on in the first half of the Nets' 103-94 win in NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010.

Thunder 99, Mavericks 86

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 25 points and 14 rebounds and rookie reserve James Harden added 17 points as Oklahoma City beat the new-look Dallas to stretch their winning streak to seven games.

Caron Butler scored 13 points after coming over in a weekend trade from Washington.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points, Jason Terry had 14 points and Jason Kidd had 12 points for the Mavericks. Starting center Erick Dampier had 13 rebounds but headed to the locker room with 2:54 remaining with an open dislocation of the middle finger on his right hand.

Durant extended his streak of games with at least 25 points to 26, but he needed a driving layup with 26.6 seconds left to get there — after coach Scott Brooks had taken three of Oklahoma City's five starters out of the game.

Heat 105, 76ers 78

At Philadelphia, Dwyane Wade scored 24 points as Miami cruised past Philadelphia.

Jermaine O'Neal added 20 points for Miami, which won its third straight.

Philadelphia welcomed back Allen Iverson, who returned after missing five games to help care for his ill daughter, Messiah. Iverson came off the bench and shot 1 for 7 from the field for four points.

Thaddeus Young led the 76ers with 16 points, and Andre Iguodala added 11.

Bulls 116, Knicks 85

At Chicago, Derrick Rose hit his first nine shots and scored 29 points to lead Chicago over New York.

Rose buried all seven shots while scoring 15 in the first quarter and was 14 for 18 in all, just missing his sixth 30-point game.

David Lee led New York with 24 points and 12 rebounds.

Pistons 108, Timberwolves 85

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Jonas Jerebko led a balanced offense with 21 points as Detroit pulled away in the second half to beat Minnesota.

The Pistons had five players in double figures and got at least two points from all 12. Kevin Love paced Minnesota with 22 points and 15 rebounds.

Suns 109, Grizzlies 95

At Memphis, Tennessee, Jason Richardson scored 27 points, and Amare Stoudemire added 21 points and 10 rebounds as Phoenix won its sixth game in the last seven with a victory over Memphis.

Richardson was 12 of 17 from the field in the Suns' fifth straight road victory. Robin Lopez finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Steve Nash had 16 assists for the Suns.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 21 points and Zach Randolph had 18 points and 15 rebounds. The Grizzlies lost their fifth straight.

Jazz 104, Rockets 95

At Houston, Deron Williams scored 17 points and dished out 15 assists, and Mehmet Okur scored 21 points as Utah continued its midseason surge with a win over Houston.

Paul Millsap scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, helping the Jazz win for the 14th time in 16 games. Utah finished with 30 assists to offset 21 turnovers.

Backup center David Andersen and Aaron Brooks scored 18 points apiece for Houston, which committed a season-high 24 turnovers.

Celtics 95, Kings 92

At Sacramento, California, Rasheed Wallace and Paul Pierce each scored 17 points as Boston held off Sacramento.

Omri Casspie scored 19 points, Tyreke Evans had 17 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists, and Jason Thompson added 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings, who have dropped 19 of 23 games since Dec. 28.

Ray Allen scored 15 points and Eddie House had 12 for Boston, which made six straight free throws in the final 15.4 seconds to seal the victory.

Trail Blazers 109, Clippers 87

At Portland, Oregon, Martell Webster scored 28 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 22 as the Portland Trail Blazers cruised to a victory over the Los Angeles Clippers a few hours after the teams made a deal Tuesday night.

Eric Gordon scored 20 points and Rasual Butler 18 for slumping Los Angeles, which lost its fifth consecutive game, and ninth in 10 games.

Earlier Tuesday, Portland and Los Angeles made a three-player trade in which the Blazers acquired 6-foot-11 center Marcus Camby in exchange for guard Steve Blake and forward Travis Outlaw. Camby was averaging 7.7 points and 12 rebounds a game for the Clippers this season. None of the three played.

Lakers 104, Warriors 94

At Los Angeles, Shannon Brown set career highs with 27 points and 10 rebounds while starting in place of the injured Kobe Bryant, as the Los Angeles Lakers beat Golden State.

Andrew Bynum added 21 points and seven rebounds in his return to the lineup after missing two games because of a bruised right hip that still gives him discomfort.

The defending NBA champions have won all four games they've played without Bryant, who also was unable to play in the All-Star game.

Anthony Morrow scored 23 points and C.J. Watson added 20 off the bench for the Warriors, who lost to the Lakers for the eighth straight time.

Nuggets coach Karl has neck, throat cancer

DENVER (AP)—Nuggets coach George Karl has been diagnosed with neck and throat cancer and likely will miss some games and practices while undergoing a rigorous six-week treatment program of radiation and chemotherapy.

His voice breaking at times, Karl revealed the diagnosis Tuesday night with his doctor, Jacques Saari, at his side and surrounded by his team and members of the Nuggets organization.

"My desire is to do whatever I can to stay with my team throughout the treatment that I have to go through," Karl said. "Basically, my belief is this is a championship team and I want to do anything and everything I can to help them continue in their quest that we all want."

Karl, a survivor of prostate cancer, said he expects to miss at least a couple of upcoming games, at Golden State on Feb. 25 and at Minnesota on March 10. He said assistant Adrian Dantley would lead the team when he's absent.

Karl informed his players that he was battling cancer when the team convened earlier Tuesday for its first practice since returning from the All-Star break.

"A situation like that, it's real life," guard Chauncey Billups said. "You take the basketball out of it. You take work out of it. None of us can really be selfish and say, 'Hey, we're going to miss George if he doesn't coach some of the games.' We've got to take all that out of it. Your heart just goes out to him and his family. All we can really do is pray for him."

Karl has coached Denver to the playoffs each of the last five seasons. His 260 wins since joining the Nuggets in January 2005 are the second most in team history.

The Nuggets are 35-18 this season and leading the Northwest Division.

"One thing about coach Karl is he has more toughness than I could ever imagine," said Thunder coach Scott Brooks, a former Karl assistant. "He's battled it one time, he's battled it with his son and now he's going to battle it again."

Saari said he found a large lump on Karl's neck during a routine examination on Dec. 30. Karl said he had been aware of the lump for some time but had assumed it was just fatty tissue. An MRI and a needle biopsy were performed and results confirmed the presence of a tumor approximately 2 inches in diameter, said Saari, adding he informed Karl of the diagnosis at the end of January.

Karl, who recently signed a contract extension with the Nuggets and coached the Western Conference All-Star team last Sunday, was successfully treated for prostate cancer in 2005. His son, Coby, also is a cancer survivor.

"I think the major desire for me is to kick this cancer's butt," Karl said. "My hope and I think the doctors are very hopeful and confident that it is a curable and treatable disease. While my family has battled cancer, I'm somewhat of an amateur but it is something that has to be treated immediately.

"I think I'm very blessed to have a great family and an organization that has supported me through all this, and great friends and a great team. I will need all of them in different ways. I don't think I'm a guy that needs sympathy but I do need support."

While treatable, Saari, said Karl faced a taxing treatment regimen.

He said the chemo therapy was intended to make the cancerous cells in Karl's body more susceptible to the effects of radiation.

Then, he said, "The idea is to really hit it hard with radiation therapy."

But the radiation, to be administered continuously for five days a week for the next six weeks, will take a physical toll on Karl, especially during the latter portion of treatment, Saari said.

"Coach is going to have a tough time," Saari said. "The first three to four weeks, I think he is going to do very well. The last 2 1/2 to three weeks of the therapy will be difficult."

Karl said he's still coming to grips with this second bout with cancer.

"Someone asked me the question, Have I come to terms with this one," he said. "I don't think I have.

"I don't care if it's a curable one or uncurable. There's no guaranteed contracts in this gig. Doctors are very confident, but mutations of cells come in different forms. We'll just give it the best shot that we have.

Ricker lifts gloom for Canada at Vancouver

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Snowboarder Maelle Ricker gave Canadians a welcome distraction with a gold medal on Tuesday at one of the Olympic venues that has caused concern at the trouble-plagued Vancouver Games.

"I'm so overwhelmed I can't believe it, the way my day started," Ricker said after her win in the snowboardcross, the host nation's second gold of these games — the first two for Canada in three Olympics on home soil.

The start of qualifying was delayed because of rain and fog.

And thousands of people who bought tickets for her event didn't get to see Ricker, with organizers having to close a standing area at Cypress Mountain because it became too dangerous due to a lack of snow required to pack down a temporary platform. Organizers said they'll have to refund a total of 28,000 tickets at the freestyle skiing venue, at a cost of $1.44 million.

Too much snow at Whistler overnight continued to play havoc with the Alpine schedule, with the men's super-combined postponed and the women's downhill training canceled. Only one race — the men's downhill — has been completed, but organizers say there's no cause for panic.

At the luge track, where the training death of a Georgian slider overshadowed last Friday's Olympics opening ceremony, Tatjana Huefner's victory gave Germany its ninth women's gold medal in 13 Olympic competitions.

Huefner's win also gave Germany a sweep of singles luge gold, after Felix Loch won the men's event.

Germany now has three gold medals, equal with South Korea and Switzerland, and one clear of Canada, France, Sweden and the United States.

Speedskater Lee Sang-hwa clinched unexpected gold for the Koreans with an upset win over German world-record holder Jenny Wolf in the women's 500 meters at Richmond's Olympic Oval.

Indoor events will come more heavily into focus in Vancouver now that men's hockey — the national obsession — and curling have started.

The hockey team opened with an 8-0 win over Norway, while Russia defeated Latvia 8-2, and the United States beat Switzerland 3-1.

The Canadian men's curlers held off a Norwegian team 7-6, with team skip Kevin Martin sealing the win with the last stone in the extra end. Martin again starred in an easy second win for Canada, with a three-point shot in the 9-4 defeat of Germany.

The wet and warm weather that is causing trouble on the mountains didn't cause too many problems for biathlon, which produced the first multi-medalists of the games. But some embarrassing human errors brought the sport into focus.

Germany's Magdalena Neuner won the women's 10-kilometer pursuit, holding off Slovakia's Anastazia Kuzmina — the pair exchanging podium places in the first two women's races. Kuzmina had beaten Neuner for gold in the 7.5K sprint on Saturday, the first day of full competition.

Bjorn Ferry won the men's 12.5-kilometer pursuit, giving Sweden its first men's biathlon gold medal in 50 years.

"I am 31 and I've waited for this my whole life," said Ferry, who was 16.5 seconds faster than silver medalist Christoph Sumann of Austria.

Frenchman Vincent Jay, who started first after winning the 10K sprint in his Olympic debut Sunday, took the bronze.

But just like in the women's 10-kilometer race, officials in the men's pursuit made embarrassing errors on the starting line.

While three women went off late in the first race, including the fourth-place finisher, Anna Carin Olofsson-Zidek, two athletes went off too early in the men's race, including Jeremy Teela of the United States and Canada's Jean Philippe Leguellec, who was penalized 30 seconds for starting early and slipped from fifth to 11th place.

Norbert Baier, the International Biathlon Union's technical delegate, acknowledged that his federation had been warned that there were inexperienced officials handling the start gates.

"It is embarrassing," Baier said. "I can't understand why this can happen. It was so easy to start today. ... Why do we have this incompetence?"

Alexandre Bilodeau's win in the moguls on Sunday night was Canada's first Olympic gold medal at home, after missing out in 1976 at Montreal and in the Calgary Winter Games in 1988.

Ricker lifted the mood again with her win, which wasn't entirely expected despite her lead in the World Cup standings.

It helped that her main rival Lindsey Jacobellis, the American who cost herself a gold medal at Turin four years ago when she tried to show off near the end, was disqualified in the semifinals.

AP

Maelle Ricker, of Canada, celebrates her women's snowboard cross gold medal win on the podium with Deborah Anthonioz, of France, left, and bronze winner Olivia Nobs, right, of Switzerland, at Cypress Mountain in West Vancouver, British Columbia, Tuesday February 16, 2010.

Vonn ready to make '10 Olympic debut in downhill

WHISTLER, British Columbia (AP)—It's finally time for Lindsey Vonn's Olympics to begin.

After so much speculation about her badly bruised right shin, detailed discussion of treatment with painkillers and Austrian curd cheese—yes, cheese—and delay upon delay because of bad weather, Vonn will make her Vancouver Games debut in Wednesday's downhill.

"I'm definitely getting antsy," she said.

As a two-time reigning overall World Cup champion entered in all five Alpine events, Vonn is pegged as a contender to win multiple medals, and is the favorite for gold in the downhill.

It's her best event, and she has won five of six World Cup downhills this season.

"She certainly feels that she has a chance to win the downhill," her husband, Thomas, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "She feels like, although it's going to be extremely painful in the run, that she can still fight through it and put down some of her best skiing."

Vonn was drawn Tuesday night to race 16th, generally considered the ideal starting spot for the speed events, because she'll get to ski before her chief rivals. Among them are Vonn's best friend, Germany's Maria Riesch, the only other woman to win a downhill this season; Sweden's Anja Paerson, owner of five Olympic medals; and Canada's Emily Brydon, who knows this hill well.

Other challengers could include Vonn's U.S. teammate Julia Mancuso, the 2006 Olympic giant slalom champion; Switzerland's Nadia Styger, who beat Vonn by a hundredth of a second on this course two years ago; and Canada's Britt Janyk, who grew up in Whistler.

"Lindsey is the fastest skier out there," said Patrick Riml, Canada's head women's Alpine coach, "and the goal is to beat her."

Riml is rather familiar with Vonn's skill and determination, because he used to coach the U.S. women's team. He and Vonn's opponents expect nothing less than her best Wednesday, no matter the state of the sports world's most famous shin.

"She's skiing," Paerson said, "and that makes me know that she's in good shape."

Vonn did stay off the slopes completely Tuesday to rest her leg, which her husband said had a bit of a setback and was "throbbing" a day after she was the fastest woman in the first part of Monday's split training session.

"It was definitely sore today, much more sore than it had been in a couple days," he said. "The full-length downhill run yesterday definitely took its toll."

That's why Vonn probably wouldn't have taken part in the downhill training run that was scheduled for Tuesday but was called off because of an overnight snowstorm.

Still, there was good news. Even though she was bothered by the shin, Monday's practice proved that "she knows her leg will hold up at those speeds, and that she can be fast even if it's painful," said Thomas Vonn, who serves as a coach and adviser to his wife.

"I was able to ski the way I wanted to," Lindsey Vonn said. "It was really painful, but I made it down, and I guess that was a real positive step."

Not just for her, but also for NBC, which made the 25-year-old who lives in Vail, Colo., one of the centerpieces of its Olympic promotion and must be thrilled to be able to show her speeding down the mountain at last—albeit on tape delay, several hours after the race is over and the results are known.

Vonn was hurt Feb. 2, when she tumbled and slammed the top of her right boot against her shin during pre-Olympic practice in Austria. She stayed off skis for more than a week—it was tough just to walk for a few days—and then sat out while wet and warm weather wiped out nearly every training session and postponed what was scheduled to be the first women's Alpine race, Sunday's super-combined.

"It's been a lot of hurry-up-and-wait with all these cancellations," she said. "But, you know, with my injury, that was the best possible scenario for me, getting that time to heal."

That said, she is ready to race. U.S. women's coach Jim Tracy went through a video session with Vonn on Monday night to go over sections of the course she needs to pay particular attention to Wednesday.

Not that there appeared to be a whole lot of room for improvement. In Monday's training, Vonn finished the more demanding portion of the day's two runs in 1 minute, 30.75 seconds - 0.39 seconds faster than the next-fastest skier, Mancuso. Later, skiing the much shorter bottom section, Vonn finished in 18.52 seconds, good for 20th and 0.73 seconds behind Paerson.

Vonn awoke Tuesday feeling the effects of all that bouncy terrain, which makes her boot bang against that swollen shin of hers. So no skiing for one day. Instead, the plan called for more treatment, some working out and maybe watching a movie.

"She'll for sure be racing tomorrow," Thomas Vonn said Tuesday. "There's no question."

Micro Games camp for girls on Saturday

Basketball Association of Northern Islands is inviting interested female players to attend a camp/clinic this Saturday in preparation for the CNMI's participation in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau this year.

BANMI president Elias Rangamar said the camp will focus on skills development program. Players who will attend the weekend camp will then be eligible to try out for slots on the CNMI Women's Nationals, who will defend their title in the Micro Games.

The CNMI ruled the women's basketball competition of the 2006 Micronesian Games held on Saipan after beating Palau, 48-34.

Former FSM coach Bill Sewell is back for a second tour of duty for the CNMI Women's Nationals and is looking to find talents in the weekend clinic that will run from 9am to 12pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rangamar

Besides the camp and regular tryout schedule, BANMI will also hold a women's league to prepare the Commonwealth's cagebelles for the Micro Games.

Rangamar said they are hoping to have at least four teams for the women's league and games will be played on the same day BANMI will have the Budweiser men's league.

The Budweiser caging is scheduled to kick off on March 15. Entrance fee is $600 and the first 10 teams to register and pay their dues will receive free uniforms. Each team is allowed to have only 10 players.

This year's defending champion is Docomo Pacific, which defeated Ol'Aces in the finals, 88-80.

So far, eight teams have already signified their interest in joining the league.

For more information about the camp, the Budweiser caging, and women's league, contact Rangamar at 664-2502. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

No entry fee pool tourney tonight

Taylor Watanabe will be aiming to defend his 8-ball title at the beginning of a new no entry fee USS Peleliu Champions Tournament tonight.

Watanabe bested Ron Chisato at USSP on Valentine's Day to take $100 and the first-place trophy. Chisato lost in their opening match, then defeated Bernard Kileleman and Mae Rengiil to come back through the loser's bracket. Rengiil topped Kileleman in their opening match.

Chisato's second was good for $50. Pacific Amusement provided trophies for first, second, and third place and USSP had plenty of chocolate for all four players.

The four finalists were already champions: they had won qualification tournaments over the previous four weeks. Chisato edged out Victor S. Hocog for the first spot, with Watanabe winning over Rick Rengiil the following week. Mae Rengiil earned her place in the final by taking two-out-of-three games from Leonard Sablan. Kileleman's 2-1 victory over Nizer Masayos gave him the final place in the championship.

Qualifying tournaments.

The next Champions tournament will be held on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. There will be qualifying tournaments every Thursday and Sunday at 7:30pm for the next four weeks, this time with eight first-place winners earning a spot in the final bracket.

There is no entry fee for the tournaments, which are double elimination, following Billiard Congress of America rules. ***(USSP)***

RACE

From Page 28

got pulled along, first as an athlete, then an administrator, and finally being a coach become the dominance force," said Race, who thanked his family, NMASA, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for their support.

Before Race, Castro was the first to be enshrined to the Hall of Fame at the awards night.

Accompanying him at the ceremony were fellow golfers Wabol, Jordon Kosam, and Tars Olopai, who looked up to Castro as their inspiration.

Kosam who nominated Castro for the prestigious award said in an earlier interview, it's very encouraging to see a 72-year-old player like the Hall of Famer still fit and playing and winning in golf tournaments.

Castro started hitting puts and greens in the late '60s at the old Saipan Country Club and from an occasional golfer, he became the CNMI representative to various regional tournaments, such as the South Pacific Games, Mini SPG, and Micronesian Games. He is also a regular participant in local tournaments and had his share of victories, including the Tournament of Champions.

"I thank my family and fellow golfers for supporting me. I would like to thank NMASA and its members for voting for me," Castro said in a short interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the awards night at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel.

Youth power

For the third straight year, NMASA's Male and Female and Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year awardees were in the 18-and-under age group (by the time their 2009 achievements were recognized).

Ji Hoon Heo, who just turned 18 this month, took the 2009 Male Athlete of the Year award this time after securing the Male Student plum in 2006 and 2007.

Yvonne Bennett, who was still 18 in 2009 when she made record feats, notched the 2009 Female Athlete of the Year award, which she also won in 2008.

Matthew Mancao is a first-timer as far as NMASA's annual awards are concerned, as he was this year's recipient of the 2009 Male Student Athlete of the Year award. Mancao was still 18 when he won in athletics meet on and off-island and also shone in triathlon events in 2009. Matthew could not make it to Tuesday night's ceremony to receive his award, as he is currently studying at the University of Guam. His brother, Michael, received the award for him.

The biggest winner among the youth awardees was athletics Jacque Wonenberg, who claimed her fifth straight Female Student Athlete of the Year award. NMASA started giving student-athletes recognition in 2004 with Bo Wang, also of athletics, as its first awardee. In the next five years, the wooden trophy had Wonenberg's name on it, following the Marianas High School student's accomplishments in on- and off-island tournaments.

Besides honoring the top athletes of 2009, NMASA also gave out the Coach of the Year Award with Elias Rangamar taking home back-to-back plums. He did not make it to the awards night due to a family emergency.

EAGLES

From Page 28

sets. Kagman lost the opening set, 23-25, but took the tightly fought second set, 26-24, and the decisive third set, 15-7, to set up a semis tiff against the Lady Dolphins 1.

The other first round pairing had the fourth-picked Lady Eagles squaring off against Lady Dolphins 2. GCA swept MHS 2 in three sets, 25-15, 25-10, 15-5, to notch the fourth semis ticket.

In the semifinals, the Becky Robles-mentored Eagles were pitted against the SIS Lady Geckos, who drew a bye in the first round of the playoffs after topping the regular season.

The second semis duel was a nip-and-tuck game with the Lady Eagles showing poise in the stretch of the first two sets to pull off an upset over the Lady Geckos, 25-23, 25-23.

The championship match will be played today, starting at 5:30pm.

SASC

From Page 28

three male triathletes and one female to Palau. It will also have one alternate in the men's division.

"SASC will pay $350 as installment fees for February and March. This means one athlete must come up with at least two $175 payments beginning in early April, which conveniently is after the Tagaman Triathlon," Berger said.

"The alternate need not come up with the money unless he is selected as a replacement," he added.

SASC will have qualifying tournaments for slots on the team if more than the planned number of triathletes showed interest in competing in the quadrennial meet. Next month's Tagaman Traithlon is one of the qualifiers.

Besides passing qualifying tournaments, triathletes aiming for spots on the team must also comply with residency requirement. Triathletes who are not from the CNMI must have resided in the Commonwealth for at least seven (continuous) years. Residency requirement for athletes who are from other Micronesian countries/islands, but will be representing the CNMI to the Games is only three years.

From the earlier deadline of Feb. 20, SASC is giving interested athletes until Feb. 24 to inform the association of their interest in competing in the Micro Games.

In the 2006 Micro Games held on Saipan, the CNMI won silver medals in the men's individual division and team event. In the women's individual division, the CNMI took a bronze medal.

Guam's Keenan Tydingco won the gold medal in the men's division, beating the CNMI's Dirk Sharer and the Marshall Islands' Thomas Cardillo. In the women's division, the Marshall Islands' Laurie Mann finished first, followed by Guam's Tara Tydingco and the CNMI's Natasha Good. Guam timed in at 9:33.07 to beat the CNMI (10:08.32) in the team event. Joining Good and Sharer on the CNMI Team were Butch Sublemente, Tyce Mister, and Lewie Tenorio.

YAMADA

From Page 28

had 21 RBIs, five homers, and five doubles.

Oliver Secharmidal of Ur Balls remained at second place with his .767 batting average, while Natibu's Kent moved up from fifth to third, logging .760. Completing the Top 5 were Man Amigos' Jerry Ayuyu (.730), who went 18-for-24, and Calikano-Falcons' Darren Pua (.680), who hit 17-for-25.

Rounding out to the Top 15 were Natibu's J.R. Suel (.679), Hitz's Jun Kaipat (.679), Man Amigos' Julian Camacho (.676) and John Terlaje (.667), Freedom Air's Stanley Aldan (.667) and Kenneth Villagomez (.655), the Blazers' Jess Taitano (.640), and the Island Rebels' Byron Kaipat (.630).

Terlaje led the league in runs with 28, J.J. Laniyo was ahead in doubles with seven, Eric Palacios and J.J. Dikito were tied for the lead in triples (four), and Peter Sablan topped the league in RBIs with 28.

In the pitching race, Ur Balls' Aldebert Lizama Sr. grabbed the top spot with his 4.12 ERA. In four games, he pitched 17 innings, allowed 36 hits, and gave up 10 runs. He had a 3-1 record in those matches.

Lancheros' John Maratita occupied the second spot with his 5.33 ERA, followed by Island Rebels' Craig Sanchez (5.38), Man Amigos' Mike Sablan (5.75), Island Rebels' Marvin Palacios (6.26), Natibu's Ned Norita (6.31), Chura's Sakisat (6.53), former leader and Freedom Air's Aldebert Lizama Jr. (6.66), San Roque's Manny Tenorio (6.77), and Hitz's (Ruben Olkeriil (7.57).

Pitching leaders were based on 17 or more innings pitched.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	18	.647	–
Toronto	29	23	.558	4 1/2
Philadelphia	20	33	.377	14
New York	19	33	.365	14 1/2
New Jersey	5	48	.094	29

Southeast Division

Orlando	36	18	.667	–
Atlanta	33	18	.647	1 1/2
Miami	27	27	.500	9
Charlotte	26	26	.500	9
Washington	17	33	.340	17

Central Division

Cleveland	43	11	.796	–
Chicago	26	26	.500	16
Milwaukee	24	27	.471	17 1/2
Detroit	19	33	.365	23
Indiana	18	34	.346	24

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	32	21	.604	–
San Antonio	30	21	.588	1
New Orleans	28	25	.528	4
Houston	27	25	.519	4 1/2
Memphis	26	26	.500	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	35	18	.660	–
Utah	33	19	.635	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	31	21	.596	3 1/2
Portland	32	24	.571	4 1/2
Minnesota	13	41	.241	22 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	42	13	.764	–
Phoenix	32	22	.593	9 1/2
L.A. Clippers	21	32	.396	20
Sacramento	18	35	.340	23
Golden State	14	38	.269	26 1/2

Yesterday's Games

New Jersey 103, Charlotte 94
Miami 105, Philadelphia 78
Detroit 108, Minnesota 85
Chicago 118, New York 85
Phoenix 109, Memphis 95
Oklahoma City 99, Dallas 86
Utah 104, Houston 95
Boston 95, Sacramento 92
Portland 109, L.A. Clippers 87
L.A. Lakers 104, Golden State 94

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	54	545	422	1612	29.9
Durant, OKC	51	500	442	1517	29.7
Anthony, DEN	40	398	332	1168	29.2
Bryant, LAL	51	527	302	1426	28.0
Wade, MIA	53	498	354	1404	26.5
Ellis, GOL	48	494	225	1259	26.2
Nowitzki, DAL	51	445	338	1257	24.6
Bosh, TOR	52	452	358	1268	24.4
Johnson, ATL	51	432	146	1100	21.6
Stoudemire, PHX	53	422	280	1124	21.2
Jackson, CHA	51	387	213	1066	20.9
Maggette, GOL	47	312	343	977	20.8
Randolph, MEM	51	421	197	1045	20.5
Evans, SAC	47	348	235	955	20.3
Kaman, LAC	46	380	159	919	20.0
Lee, NYK	51	428	162	1018	20.0
Gay, MEM	49	373	187	971	19.8
Rose, CHI	51	421	153	1000	19.6
Boozer, UTA	48	371	188	930	19.4
Duncan, SAN	48	367	195	929	19.4

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	221	360	.614
Howard, ORL	315	524	.601
Hilario, DEN	283	478	.592
Gasol, MEM	281	478	.588
Millsap, UTA	233	409	.570
Bynum, LAL	305	537	.568
Horford, ATL	283	503	.563
Haywood, WAS	188	335	.561
O'Neal, CLE	228	408	.559
Lee, NYK	428	768	.557

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	54	192	528	720	13.3
Camby, LAC	51	166	450	616	12.1
Noah, CHI	46	176	376	552	12.0
Randolph, MEM	51	221	369	590	11.6
Bosh, TOR	52	158	437	595	11.4
Lee, NYK	51	130	453	583	11.4
Wallace, CHA	49	100	434	534	10.9
Boozer, UTA	48	96	423	519	10.8
Duncan, SAN	48	154	360	514	10.7
Haywood, WAS	49	200	307	507	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Nash, PHX	53	587	11.1
Williams, UTA	46	449	9.8
Rondo, BOS	49	475	9.7
Kidd, DAL	51	472	9.3
James, CLE	54	449	8.3
B. Davis, LAC	52	412	7.9
Westbrook, OKC	51	382	7.5
Wade, MIA	53	345	6.5
Duhon, NYK	51	320	6.3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2009 Northern Marianas Athletics Awards Banquet

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMA officials for 2010 pose for a group photo.

Former Northern Marianas Athletics officials Kurt Barnes, right, and Louie Wabol, left, present a certification of recognition to Pacific Islands Club, represented by Cole Pritchard, for being the corporate sponsor of NMA in 2009.

Athlete of the Year (12-and-under division) Angelo Jones, left, receives his award from NMA's Robin Sapong.

Julia Ishikawa took the Athlete of the Year award in the girls' 8-and-under division.

Co-athlete of the Year awardee (12-and-under division) Joanne Reyes, second left, and Gabrielle Race, second right, join NMA officials during the awards ceremony at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club.

Athlete of the Year (14-and-under) Rachel Abrams smiles after receiving her trophy.

2009 Road Runner of the Year Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel poses with NMA officials.

Robin Sapong, left, presents a plaque of appreciation to NMA volunteers Allan and Kaye Moses.

Ben Babauta received the certificate of appreciation for DFS, which has been a regular supporter of NMA events.

Anthony Deleon Guerrero is all smiles and proudly shows his Athlete of the Year trophy in the boys' 8-and-under division.

Ricker lifts gloom for Canada at Vancouver

25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nets get 5th win, knock off Bobcats

24

Race, Castro enshrined to Hall of Fame

Four young athletes hailed as 2009's best

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Michael Mancao, representing brother Matthew, Jacque Wonenberg, Frank Castro, Jeff Race, Yvonne Bennett, and Ji Hoon Heo pose with their trophies during the 2009 NMASA Annual Awards Banquet on Tuesday at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel.

The 2009 NMASA Annual Awards Banquet became a trip down memory lane, as members of the sports community recalled the awardees' achievements in the past year and beyond.

Tennis' Jeff Race remembered having a little idea of what his and his family's life would be like when he came to Saipan 22 years ago, while Frank Castro looked back when he used a club made from a tree to play golf in the late '60s.

Race and Castro were enshrined to the 2009 class of the CNMI Hall of Fame for their contributions in their respective sports.

Race is a player, coach, and administrator of tennis. He represented the CNMI to various off-island tournaments, either as a player or a coach. His biggest achievement as a mentor was when he was chosen as Fed Cup and Davis Cup captain for the Pacific Oceania Team. His latest feat is helping CNMI junior player Ji Hoon Heo gain the No. 1 ranking in Pacific Oceania and become the first player from the Commonwealth to make it to the Junior ITF world rankings.

"This list is getting longer, but I have to continue reading, as Jeff deserves every word from this list," NMASA president Michael White said during the introduction of the second inductee to the CNMI Hall of Fame that night.

Race received an especially crafted wooden trophy for making it to the elite group, which includes Bill and Jean Sakovich, Tony Rogolifoi, Mike Villlagomez, the late Irene Alpet, Tony Satur, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios, Kurt Barnes, Cecilia Lisua, Jose Tenorio Sablan, Ricardo Duenas, Antonio Benavente, and Jess Wabol.

"When I came to Saipan, 22 years ago, I had a little idea what was in store for me. I didn't think that my professional life was going to revolve around sports, and tennis in particular. I expected to work in urban or natural resources planning or maybe in the tourism industry," Race said.

"But as the song goes, 'One thing leads to another,' and so it was for me. Farther and farther, faster and faster, I

See RACE on Page 26

Eagles, Dolphins collide for v'ball title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It will be Marianas High School 1 against Grace Christian Academy in the girls varsity division finals of the 2009-2010 MISO High School Volleyball League.

The Lady Dolphins 1 and Lady Eagles arranged their title duel after prevailing in separate semifinal matches on Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

MHS 1 swept Kagman High School in the semifinals, 25-23, 25-15. The Lady Dolphins and Lady Ayuyus still played the third set although the match was already decided, and MHS 1 still prevailed, 15-12.

The Tyce Mister-coached Lady Dolphins finished the single-round regular season second behind Saipan International School and the Lady Dolphins drew a bye at the start of the playoff round.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Lady Ayuyus, who were ranked third after the regular season, challenged the last seeded Saipan Southern High School 2 and won in three

See EAGLES on Page 26

Grace Christian Academy's Michiko Tenorio returns to Saipan International School during their semis game in the MISO varsity volleyball league on Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SASC aids triathletes bound for Micro Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Here is good news for triathletes who will represent the CNMI to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau: Saipan Adventure Sports Club will shell out $350 for the trip.

The total cost of the trip to the Micro Games this year is $950, but Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will shoulder part of the cost or will give $250, leaving athletes to foot the remaining $700. The remaining amount is payable in four months, starting this month until May. SASC, after several board meetings, decided to offer financial help, too to its members who will be selected to compete in the Micronesian Games.

"SASC will pay for up to half of the cost. Athletes must come up with at least $350 on their own. If they are able to raise more, that amount should be paid back to SASC," SASC official Joshua Bergen said in an e-mail forwarded to SASC members.

The association is looking to send

See SASC on Page 26

Lewie Tenorio, seen here during last year's Tagaman Triathlon, was a member of the CNMI Team that competed in the 2006 Micronesian Games. The CNMI is aiming to send triathletes to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau in August.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Yamada seizes batting race lead

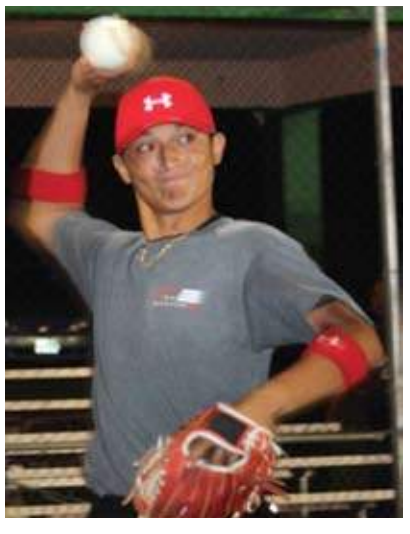
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Freedom Air Flyers' Shane Yamada climbed up from sixth to first place in the batting race in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League.

As of Feb. 5 on 24 or more at bats, Yamada posted a batting average of .813, built on a 26-for-32 performance at the plate. He scored 19 runs, two singles, 26 RBIs, and five homers. The Freedom Air shortstop had a batting average of .700 the last time, finishing behind five other batters, including two-time leader Jose Santos.

Santos remained in the Top 15, but dropped to a tie for eighth to ninth place after recording a batting average of .677. Santos was 21-for-31 at bat, tallied 15 runs, seven RBIs, three doubles, and two triples. He was tied with Chura's Mel Sakisat, who also

See YAMADA on Page 26

Freedom Air's Shane Yamada took the lead in the batting race in Chamolinian's softball league at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO